THE HISTORY OF *Henry Dumont*, Esq; AND Miss *Charlotte Evelyn.*

CONSISTING OF

Variety of Entertaining CHARACTERS, and very Interesting SUBJECTS;

With some Critical Remarks on Comick Actors.

By Mrs. *CHARKE.*

The virtuous Marcia tow'rs above her Sex:
True, she is fair, (Oh, how divinely fair!)
But still the lovely Maid improves her Charms,
With inward Greatness, unaffected Wisdom,
And Sanctity of Manners. ADDISON.

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PREFACE.

THE PREFACE.

THIS History was originally intended to have been publiſhed laſt Summer, but on my ſaying I deſigned in my Preface to give a ſhort account of my Life; ſeveral Gentlemen and Ladies inſiſted on my ſwelling my Narrative to a Volume, which in Compliance to their Requeſt I did; which was the Conſequence of retard-

ing the Publication of this. I have endeavoured to do Juſtice to every Character according to their different Merits. And I dare ſay, there is not a young Lady in Great-Britain, *that would not wiſh to be the worthy Imitator of Miſs* Evelyn *in each Action of her Life. Nor is her Father leſs worthy, being a general Example for the Male Part of the Creation; whatever Faults may be critically obſerved in the Diction, I hope will be in Part attoned for, by endeavouring to keep up the noble Sentiments of Virtue ſo entirely conſiſtent with the true Character of an honeſt Soul, whether dignified with Title, or only*

only aggrandized with innate Principles of Honour, Juſtice, and Humanity.

I ſhall trouble my Reader no further, than to wiſh my Endeavour to entertain them may ſucceed, and by the Sale of my Book ſhall be able to judge, whether I ſhall ever dare to make any farther Attempt of this Nature.

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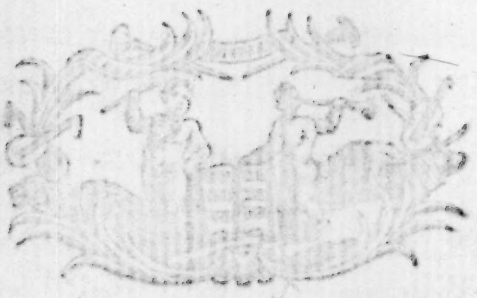

THE HISTORY OF Mr. *Dumont*, AND Miſs *Charlotte Evelyn*.

CHAP. I.

Some Account of Mr. Dumont's *Family.*

MR. Henry Dumont, the ſubject of the following ſheets, was a native of France, and only ſon of Mr. Archibald Dumont, (a gentleman of immenſe fortune and good extraction) by his mother's ſide deſcended from a noble family, ſhe being the daughter and ſole heireſs of the Count Deſtrades, who became a

widower when this young lady was but four years of age: The extreme regard he had for the memory of her much lamented mother, conſiderably added to his care of this tender pledge of their affections. Who in her infancy gave lively hopes of becoming what ſhe proved, the wonder of the age, and a glorious example to poſterity.

She was early inſtructed in the ſeveral branches of polite literature, which with the neceſſary accompliſhments of muſic, ſinging, dancing, &c. ſhe was juſtly accounted the paragon of art and nature's workmanſhip.

At the age of eighteen, her papa carried her to court, being the firſt time of her appearance there; the reader may eaſily conceive the magnificence of her dreſs on this occaſion, but her ſparkling jewels were totally eclipſed by the brilliancy of her angelic form, which naturally attracted the eyes of the whole circle.

When ſhe was preſented to the King, on offering to kneel to kiſs his hand, he ſcarce permitted her to bend her knee; aſſuring her he thought ſo noble and amiable

miable a form, rather ſeemed born to fill a throne than kneel to it: in ſhort, his majeſty was ſo captivated with the tranſcendency of her beauty, that he fell into a deep and ſudden melancholly, which conſiderably increaſed each time this fair one viſited the court.

This ſurprizing change in the monarch univerſally aſtoniſhed every one who had the honour of paying their perſonal reſpects, as he was naturally of a gay and cheerful diſpoſition; no one could conceive what could be the motive of ſo melancholly an alteration; but the true cauſe was known to a particular favourite, who was privy to all his majeſty's ſecrets in love affairs; and having liberty to ſay on thoſe occaſions what he thought proper, adviſed him to cure his malady, by loading the Count with ſuch preferments, that he ſhould think himſelf obliged to yield him up his daughter in return.

Alaſs! ſaid the King, his fortune is ſo great, he never thought it worth his while to accept of any places, tho' conſiderable ones have been offered him in my father's reign; therefore I have

very little reaſon to hope for ſucceſs from a ſcheme of that nature.

Why then, replied the evil councellor, you muſt have recourſe to other ſtratagems; and not let a nation ſuffer in the loſs of a glorious monarch for a puny girl. And with your majeſty's permiſſion, I will uſe my beſt endeavours to procure this beauty for you.

The King overcome by love and impatient deſire, gave in to all his confidant propoſed; who was diſpatched to the Count with a meſſage to attend him in private.

His lordſhip directly obeyed the ſummons, and after ſome diſcourſe upon indifferent matters had paſſed between them; my lord, ſaid the King, I muſt thank you for the favour you did the court, in bringing to it one of the moſt ſhining ornaments it e'er was graced with. And to convince you how much I eſteem the lady, I beg you will permit me to make her an offer, of one of the higheſt poſts of honour, that ſhe may be more frequent in her viſits here; and that your lordſhip would make choice of any place on your part, that I might be com-

pleatly happy, in having conſtantly near me two of the moſt valuable perſons in my kingdom.

The Count bowed, and thanking his majeſty for the honour he did him, hoped he would not think he wanted a proper ſenſe of his goodneſs, in excuſing himſelf from accepting his offer; adding, that he ſhould ever find him a loyal ſubject, and a firm adherent to his intereſt; but he reſolved never to be a motive of envy by entering into any employment at court; and that his ſword ſhould be ready in his defence or his country's good, if occaſion ſhould require it; and that without any other reward, than the mere deſire of manifeſting his duty and fidelity.

The King finding him poſitively bent againſt this propoſal, no longer detained him. The Count took leave, and haſtened home, immediately ordering his travelling equipage to be got ready to eſcort him and Lady Charlotte to his country ſeat.

The family were under great conſternation at this ſudden and haſty removal, but the Count's quick apprehenſion of

the King's deſign upon his daughter, would not permit him to ſtay long enough to give any other reaſon for it than his will to have it ſo.

Lady Charlotte, who was no leſs ſurprized than the reſt, would not offer to enquire into the matter; judging her papa's commands a ſufficient motive for her obedience.

Orders were left to report to his majeſty, that the Count was taken dangerouſly ill; to prevent any jealouſy that might ariſe from his non-appearance at the drawing-room; and to conceal his abſence for a few days, till he had effected a deſign, which would prevent any future attacks upon the lady's virtue. And if any letters were ſent, they ſhould be carefully conveyed to his lordſhip.

This charge was left with one Mr. Evelyn, an Engliſh gentleman, who had formerly been poſſeſſed of a very good eſtate, but repeated misfortunes had reduced him to ſo low an ebb, he was obliged to take refuge in a foreign country, for the ſecurity of his perſon; and with a ſmall remainder of his wreck'd fortune, he and his lady embarked

barked for France, where his great ſenſe and learning ſoon recommended him to the acquaintance of people of the higheſt diſtinction; who were continually ſolliciting him for his company. Among the reſt the noble Count Deſtrades was particularly charmed with his underſtanding, and his wife's, who was equally coveted by the ladies.

The Count's approbation grew into a friendſhip for this unfortunate couple; inſomuch, that he took them entirely under his protection. And as Mr. Evelyn was remarkable for his ſcholarſhip, made him tutor, and his ſpouſe governeſs to lady Charlotte, by which means, ſhe ſoon became miſtreſs of the Engliſh tongue; and tranſlated ſeveral Latin, French, and Italian authors. She was about five years of Age when Mr. Evelyn firſt ſaw her, from which time, the Count left her entirely to his, and Mrs. Evelyn's care; which charge they acquitted with great honour to themſelves, and univerſal admiration of all who had the pleaſure of ſeeing an inſtance of their power, in making lady Charlotte one of the moſt accompliſh'd

of her ſex. Her governeſs who ſung, and play'd the harpſichord finely, inſtructed her in thoſe two excellent qualifications, in which ſhe was not inferior to the moſt ſkilfull maſters.

The Count and his lovely daughter's ſweetneſs of diſpoſition, rendered Mr. Evelyn's life (tho' in a ſtate of dependance) a continued ſcene of eaſe and chearfulneſs; and he often declared himſelf happier in this retreat, than when in the higheſt affluence of his fortune.

But to return to the Count and Lady Charlotte, whom we have left on the road; the kind father thinking his daughter might be uneaſy, from being ignorant of the cauſe of this unexpected journey, thought it proper to unfold the myſtery, and thus addreſſed her.

I fear, my deareſt child, you are apprehenſive of ſome miſtake at court, that may have cauſed this extraordinary expedition; but to eaſe your mind in that reſpect, I muſt inform you, it proceeds from my tender regard for your perſon and honour; both which the King has formed a cruel deſign againſt; 'tis needleſs to tell you what paſſed between

tween us; let it ſuffice I have protected you from his utmoſt efforts to undo you. And ſhould his reſentment and diſappointment urge him to level at my head, I had rather loſe that, than bear the more deadly ſtroke of ſeeing thee become a ſacrifice to lawleſs love.

The ſenſible young lady was ſo tenderly affected with her fond parent's regard, that ſhe demonſtrated her gratitude, by a ſudden ſhower of tears; and graſping his hand, kiſſed it o'er and o'er, till ſhe found words to thank him; aſſuring him, at the ſame time, that ſhe was ſo far from being vain of her conqueſt, that it only excited her contempt; as ſhe conceived, that a virtuous mind was preferable to all the glittering grandeur of a throne.

The Count who was not a little pleas'd at this virtuous acknowledgement from his daughter, proceeded to an enquiry into her heart. You are now, my Child, ſaid he, ſecured from a probability of any danger from the King, and to make that happineſs more perfect, I deſire you will candidly tell me if among the number of admirers, who have addreſs'd themſelves to you, there is any one in particular that

has made an impreſſion on your mind? a riſing bluſh diffus'd it ſelf on her lovely face attended with a viſible confuſion, and artleſs innocence.

The Count who was ever cautious of giving her a moment's diſquiet, beg'd her not to be uneaſy at the queſtion, for he ſtarted it to make her happy, not to give her the leaſt diſquiet; therefore my dear let me propoſe to you at once a valuable partner, one who I am certain loves you with a boundleſs paſſion, and who has long importun'd me as well as your ſelf to make him happy; but as I believe both you and I have acted from one principle, I mean the fear of giving each other pain, we have protracted a joy which might poſſibly have been diffuſive thro' the family. Mr. Archibald Dumont is the perſon I'm going to offer to you, but if your choice prefers any other, I ſhall wave the authority of the parent, and yield to your own inclination and diſcretion, as I am confident your good ſenſe would not blindly ſuffer you to fix on any one whoſe merit did not ſufficiently recommend him.

On the mentioning Mr. Dumont, a ſecond bluſh ſucceeded the former; which the count perceiving, to prevent any further check to her modeſty, told her he apprehended he had touch'd the ſtring that made moſt harmony in her ſoul; that ſhe ſhould have not only his conſent, but approbation; and that ſhe could not oblige him in a more eminent degree than to eſpouſe him with the utmoſt expedition, by which means ſhe would not only be made infinitely happy in a worthy huſband, but put an end to all future pretenſions to her. Upon this declaration the lady was reliev'd from that reſtraint, which an intire reſignation to her father's will had laid upon her; and after ſome little pauſe, ſhe acknowledg'd Mr. Dumont had the greateſt intereſt with her of all the gentlemen who had paid their addreſſes; but that ſhe ſtruggled very hard to ſuppreſs a growing inclination, till ſhe could be fully aſſur'd 'twas agreable to his lordſhip for her to entertain any thoughts of him that exceeded the bounds of friendſhip; but ſince the Count had generouſly given a ſanction to her regard, ſhe confeſs'd ſhe was ready to receive Mr.

Dumont for a huſband whenever he thought proper to command it.

This affair being agreeably concluded, they paſt on their journey very pleaſingly, diſcourſing chiefly on the happineſs they propos'd in the intended alliance.

After near two days travelling, they arriv'd at his lordſhip's ſeat, on which (as is cuſtomary on ſuch occaſions) the bells were ſet a ringing. Mr. Dumont, who lived within half a mile, enquired the cauſe; when being inform'd the Count and lady Charlotte were come down, he flew with impatient fondneſs to the idol of his wiſhes, and was ſoon made acquainted with the reaſon of their unexpected arrival. When he heard the deſign that was form'd againſt the virtue of his adored miſtreſs, he felt the moſt exquiſite pain that indignation and revenge could poſſibly excite. And what aggravated the torture he ſuffer'd on this account, was being diveſted of the power of ſacrificing to his rage, the author of the intended villainy; he thought he could never ſufficiently applaud the prudent conduct of the peer in withdrawing his daughter from the ſight of him who would have done

done her ſo irreparable an injury: and when Lady Charlotte had quitted the room, he took that opportunity to urge his ſuit, and what encouraged him to preſs it more ſtrongly than before, he obſerved that Lady Charlotte received him with more freedom than uſual, ſtill preſerving the neceſſary dignity of her ſex. The Count who had a ſincere reſpect for this young gentleman, would not keep him in ſuſpence, but ſoon declared all that was needful to convince him of his ſucceſs; the tranſported lover was then as much diſtracted with joy, as he had been juſt before with immoderate rage.

After ſupper the Count related to his daughter, Mr. Dumont's requeſt; and as there had been a twelve months courtſhip before, he thought, as all parties were agreed, there needed no farther ceremony than to fix the day for their nuptials, which was celebrated with great pomp in about ten days after.

Mr. Dumont was poſſeſs'd of a fortune almoſt equal to the Count's; but the trifling deficiency was more than made up in his excellent character, that we may ſay of him,

him; "praiſe could not ſpeak his "worth."

During their abſence ſeveral enquiries were made after the Count's illneſs; and letters ſent to the young lady, with promiſes of half the kingdom upon her granting his majeſty's requeſt.

Mr Evelyn pretended the Count's violent indiſpoſition obliged the young lady to give cloſe attendance; that ſhe would ſee no company till her papa's recovery; but if the gentleman would pleaſe to intruſt him with the letters, he would faithfully deliver them at a proper opportunity; which indeed he did to the Count, according to order; whether by bribery of one of the ſervants or by what means is unknown, but the count's fictitious illneſs was diſcover'd, and his ſudden journey reach'd the King's ear, who grew outragious, and ſent an order for his immediate return. A courier was accordingly diſpatch'd to his lordſhip, who ſignified his majeſty's diſpleaſure for having giving out a falſe report of his being ill, only to eſtrange himſelf from court; and expected his appearance there with utmoſt expedition; the Count ſent his

duty,

duty, with a promiſe to ſet out next day, leaving behind him the happy pair, who waited with impatient concern for his return.

The news of Lady Charlotte's marriage drove the love ſick monarch almoſt diſtracted, and many more of her admirers into aſtoniſhment and deſpair. The ſecond day's journey the Count was met upon the road by Mr. Evelyn, to inform him of the revenge the king had meditated againſt him, and would fain have perſwaded him to go back again; to which the intrepid Count replied, to what end? When the king can convince me, that he has a better title to do me an injury, than I have to prevent it, I will begin to fear him; but as I know him to be the offender, I have no reaſon to dread or to avoid him. I own, ſaid Mr. Evelyn, your lordſhip's cauſe is juſt; and hope you will excuſe in me a zealous regard, which gratitude and duty equally compel. The Count aſſur'd him, he received his caution as he meant it, but declar'd no earthly power ſhould reſtrain him from ſeeing the King, which he did the very night he got to Verſailles.

When

When he entered the royal apartment, his majeſty looking ſternly at him demanded the cauſe of his ill treatment of him; to which the Count begged he would explain himſelf, for he declared that he was moſt truly firm in his allegiance, which nothing ever could ſhake or violate; and that he could not conceive in what point he had offended. Not offended! replied the king! when in contempt of all the offered honours which I courted you to receive, you baſely and meanly urged a falſehood to avoid me; did that wear a face of loyalty? The greateſt, replied the count, I poſſibly could ſhow, in preventing your majeſty from running into the moſt apparent evils, which the utmoſt joys they could have afforded, would never compenſate for the inexpreſſible compunction you muſt have felt upon cool reflection: Conſider, royal Sir, your office here is ſo nice a repreſentation of heavenly power, that one bad action would ſully a thouſand virtues; and that you are not here as regulator only, but deſign'd an exemplary good to all mankind. I need not be more explicit on the theme which has

thrown

thrown me under your majeſty's diſpleaſure, but ſhall refer myſelf to your cooler judgment, whether I have not acted like a prudent father, and a true ſubject; which characters, I ſhall ever think it my duty to ſupport to a religious ſtrictneſs.

The King being ſenſible his friendly offers to the Count were only the effects of an ill grounded paſſion, could urge nothing to enforce the juſtice of his cauſe; and that what the Count had ſaid to him, was a neceſſary and tender reproach for the ſtain he would have thrown upon his own honour and dignity, by a cruel abuſe of a lady of the moſt exalted virtue. This reflection ſoftned the fury of his temper, and reduced it to its native ſweetneſs; then ſmiling on the Count, my Lord, ſaid he, I muſt acknowledge your nobleneſs of ſoul in regard to this affair gives you ſuch a ſuperiority over me, that I cannot think it leſſens, but will rather be an addition to greatneſs to confeſs my error, and implore your pardon, and alſo that of the beauteous Lady Charlotte, whom I can never ſufficiently make amends, for the wrong my unruly paſſion would have done her; but

but as an earneſt of my contrition, and ſincere deſire of a laſting innocent friendſhip, beg your lordſhip to prevail on her to wear this trifle for my ſake; taking a ring from his finger of immenſe value, which he gave to the Count, aſſuring him at the ſame time he had he feared an invincible foe to combat with; adding, that he never knew the deſpotick power of love before. However, in reſpect to the lady as well as from a regard to his own quiet, he would uſe his utmoſt efforts to ſubdue, what at that time had abſolutely conquered him.

The Count took leave of his Majeſty, whom he never ſaw after; the reaſon of which the reader will ſoon be informed; the next day he ſet out for his country ſeat, where he had left the new married happy pair, who waited with impatience for his return to compleat their joy, and to be ſatisfied of the reſult of his expedition to court.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The Count returns to his Country Seat. A Proof of the Uncertainty of earthly Happineſs.

EARLY next morning, the count ſet out to his ſeat; his impatience to return, occaſioned his going poſt, where being arrived, he was received by the happy Dumont and his lady with ineffable tranſport, to whom he imparted all that happened at court; preſenting Lady Charlotte with his majeſty's token of repentant friendſhip; which ſhe had no ſooner received, than ſhe deſired her ſpouſe to wear it in her ſtead, it being ſo large a brilliant, ſhe thought it a more proper ornament for a gentleman's, than a lady's finger. At the ſame time, requeſting both the Count and Mr. Dumont never to inſiſt upon her appearance at court, and ſignified her fondneſs for retirement; alledging, that the meaſure of her joys were full, in the poſſeſſion of the

the beſt of fathers, and wortheſt huſband; and 'twas impoſſible for her to receive any addition to her happineſs.

This boon was directly granted, and orders ſent to Verſailles, for Mr and Mrs. Evelyn to join this happy family; and to leave one of the Count's ſtewards with three or four truſty ſervants, to look after the eſtate.

Upon this ſummons they inſtantly removed, greatly pleas'd at Lady Charlotte's choice of a retired life.

In about two months time, ſhe proved with child, which conſiderably augmented the joy of her father, and the fond Dumont; whoſe conjugal love and tenderneſs was unprecedented, as were the valuable qualifications of the adored object of his wiſhes; 'tis nothing to ſay, they ſtudied to make each other happy, nature having formed them with that unanimity, their thoughts and actions flowed from one conſtant ſpring of ever during love.

When they had been about a twelvemonth married, they were bleſſed with the birth of a lovely boy, who is the ſubject of the following ſheets.

After

After the deſcription of their happineſs in each other, a detail of this additional tranſport, would be but an impertinent intruſion on the reader's time and patience. But alas! how uncertain are the joys of the moſt happy, while in a ſtate of mortality?

This lady had not lain in above a fortnight, before ſhe was ſeized with the ſmall-pox; which in a very few days, put a period to her life.

The new born babe receiv'd the infection; tho', in ſo favourable a manner, it ſoon recovered; but the unhappy father, ſubdued by exceſſive grief, with a broken heart expired; and that ſo ſuddenly, they were in one day with great funeral pomp entombed together.

Now, gentle reader, I leave your own imagination to paint the perpetual gloom of ſorrow, the ſurviving father muſt endure from ſuch a loſs; and which, but that of the tender offspring of this lamented pair, was ſpared to alleviate his woe, might have been the fatal cauſe of his deceaſe. But providence had otherwiſe ordained it, for the ſake

of

of the little orphan, whom more than life he loved; and amply teſtified his affection in his paternal care.

As ſoon as the mournful obſequies were ended, the count reſolved to quit the kingdom; not being able to bear the place where he had paſſed ſo many happy years of ſoft paternal dalliance, with his dear and only child; the loſs of whom, and his worthy ſon in law, render'd him inconſoleable.

Mr. Evelyn was diſpatched to Verſailles, with an addreſs to his majeſty, in order to obtain leave for the Count's departure from France; having deſign'd, with his royal permiſſion, to paſs the remaining part of his life in England.

The king bore no ſmall ſhare in his diſtreſs, and complimented the memory of the deceas'd lady, with an order for a court mourning; which continued for one month, ſhe being by her mother's ſide, a diſtant relation to the blood-royal.

His majeſty expreſſed a tender concern for his lordſhip's misfortune, and was ſorry he had ſo melancholy an occaſion to teſtifie his readineſs to oblige him; and

and ſince his grief was unſurmountable, rather than run the hazard of ſhortening his days, by ſtaying in France, he freely gave him leave to embark for England, in hopes that time and abſence might diſſipate his anguiſh, and prolong his life.

Mr. Evelyn was diſmiſſed with leave from the King, under his own hand; which with the utmoſt expedition he brought to the Count.

It happened Mrs. Evelyn was delivered of a daughter, about a week after Lady Charlotte Dumont was brought to bed of her ſon; which retarded their voyage to England, till ſhe was capable of being moved; in which time the Count ſettled his affairs, and being apprehenſive he ſhould not long ſurvive his darling child; was careful in providing for Miſs Evelyn, whoſe father's merit claimed the ſtrongeſt regard; for which reaſon, he preſented the infant with five thouſand pounds on their arrival; which when ſhe came to age, was doubled by a growing intereſt.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

The Count arrives in England; *ſettles near* London.

MRS Evelyn's month being up, and the count's affairs finiſhed, he embarked for England; taking with him only Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn, the new born infants, and their nurſes; with Latour his gentleman, who attended him when he was at ſchool, in the quality of a footman; but from his good behaviour, was preferred, when his lordſhip came to age, to the foremention-ed poſt.

By a favourable gale, they were ſafely and ſuddenly conducted to Dover; from thence they were eſcorted to London. Mr. Evelyn directly hired a ready furniſhed houſe for the family in Pall-Mall, till by the count's order he had found out an agreeable retreat in the country, which he ſoon effected; and purchas'd an eſtate at a place called Iver, within

within three miles of Uxbridge, about twenty one from London.

In a ſhort time the Count ſettled there with a determination to become an abſolute recluſe; and as his grandſon grew up, who was his only care and comfort, made his wellfare the buſineſs of his life; which that he might effectually accompliſh, he delivered him up to Mr. Evelyn as ſoon as he became of an age ſufficient to receive inſtructions.

Miſs Evelyn was no leſs regarded by this noble lord, who allowed a ſalary to her parents to educate her, as his adopted daughter, by which means ſhe was qualified for a court, with the neceſſary accompliſhments that afterwards enabled her to govern a family; the pleaſure the Count received from the daily and viſible improvement made in theſe tender bloſſoms, conſiderably alleviated his grief, and gave him early hopes of their ſoon becoming the full blown flowers of perfection.

The young gentleman often ſolicited his Grand papa, to conſent to his taking a tour thro' France and Italy, but the Count would by no means liſten to that

propoſal; declaring that he would have him thoroughly acquainted with the country he was bred in, before he went abroad; that when he had compleated his ſtudies Mr. Evelyn ſhould accompany him to all the remarkable places in England, that he might be able to give an account of them; for though, ſaid the Count, you are not a native here, you'll have as much expected from you in regard to the knowledge of this kingdom as if you were; having, ſix weeks excepted, paſſed your life in it.

I have experienced the diſadvantages young gentlemen have labour'd under, by being ſent abroad before they had received the neceſſary qualifications for their travels; which not only rendred themſelves ridiculous, but throws an odium upon a glorious country, which is capable of producing as great genius's as any in Europe, were they ſuffer'd to take a proper time for cultivation, before they launch into the world; the want of which regard, is the reaſon why ſo many of the Engliſh youth ſet out pert blockheads, and return accompliſh'd aſſes; which unhappy management has laid

laid the foundation of ruin for many a fine woman, and fair eſtate, by falling into the hands of theſe unfiniſh'd, modern fine gentlemen; and that you, my dear Harry, may not ſwell the number of their account, I tenderly admoniſh you to lay aſide all thoughts of viſiting any foreign country, till your friends ſhall judge it proper; and you are able to convince the people abroad, that your expedition was rather occaſion'd by curioſity, than a want of improvement.

The good youth, whoſe higheſt happineſs conſiſted in obeying his worthy grandſire, from that time, without reluctance, gave up all thoughts of travelling; and that his complacency of temper might meet both with reward and encouragement, the Count gave him free liberty to enjoy all the innocent and polite pleaſures of life; and though his lordſhip ſeldom went abroad himſelf, he permitted both the children to go to court, aſſemblies, balls, operas, and plays, as they lived ſo near London, but conſtantly attended by Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn; young Dumont and Miſs were great Lovers of dramatick performances, and pre-

vail'd upon his Lordſhip to let them have a compleat theatre built at the end of a green walk; where ſeveral young Ladies and Gentlemen formed a company of comedians, and exhibited many of Shakeſpear's and Moliere's plays; nor was Terence excluded; whoſe Comedies were generally acted by the male part of their ſociety, except ſometimes Miſs Evelyn, who was perfect miſtreſs of the Latin tongue, took an occaſional part to fill up their number: between the acts ſhe frequently entertain'd the nobility and gentry (who form'd their audience) with a ſong or a leſſon on the harpſichord, in which ſhe equal'd the moſt ſkillful proficients of the age; their choice of this kind of amuſement pleas'd the Count extremely, as it was both innocent and inſtructive, allowing the ſtage to be a kind of ſeminary in itſelf, and capable of refining the underſtandings, both of the performer and ſpectators, and in ſome degree cultivate a natural genius, which might unfortunately want the bleſſing and aſſiſtance of a regular education.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Dumont *gives early Proof of Humanity by an unexpected Adventure.* Iriſh *Hoſpitality juſtly obſerved and eſteem'd.*

MR. Dumont having attain'd to the age of fifteen, gave daily and diſtinguiſhing proofs of his growing virtues; the precepts and examples of his tender parent, and careful governor, having formed his mind, and raiſed it to ſuch a glorious height of perfection, he was deſervedly accounted and eſteem'd the mirror of the age; among the number of his excellent qualities, that of humanity was not the leaſt, which this chapter will diſcover: he had the bravery of the Engliſh, the politeneſs of the French, but in the foremention'd virtue he was conſiderably indebted to the Iriſh, who are remarkably beneficent to all whoſe misfortunes have any claim to their pity or redreſs; the friendleſs ſtranger on the firſt application is diſcharged from the burden of his affliction, by the gene-

rous natives of that kingdom, the freedom and chearful eaſe with which they adminiſter comfort to the wretched, redoubles the merit of their bounty. I beg pardon for this digreſſion, which I hope will be excuſed, ſince it is occaſion'd by an earneſt deſire of doing juſtice to a ſet of worthy perſons, whoſe generous ſouls are ever ſtrongly affected with the miſeries of their fellow creatures, and think themſelves bleſs'd while they exert their power to aſſwage, or totally diſſipate their ſorrows. I could wiſh this laudable example, ſo truly great, was more general in this kingdom, I mean an extenſion of it among the middling ſort of people, tho' in Ireland, even POVERTY lays no reſtraint upon the mind of the moſt indigent, who, far as their ſmall pittance will allow, the diſtreſſed are welcome to a friendly part. I hope the people of England won't conceive while I am giving due praiſe to the Iriſh, that I would throw a general odium upon my own country; No! far be it from me to be guilty of ſuch a calumny, I only ſpeak from the experience I have from many ſtrangers who have acknowledged the boundleſs

boundleſs favours they received from the Hibernians of high and low degree; nor have I been exempt from their bounty, as I have fully demonſtrated in the ſubject of my narrative. I think a national gratitude incumbent on all who have the leaſt regard to humanity; and were the lower people here, more kind to ſtrangers, or their near acquaintance in diſtreſs, I am apt to believe two very great evils would be by that means avoided, the firſt of which is an inhuman deprivation of that power to do good, which the great Ruler of the world has for our own advantage beſtow'd upon us; the next is thro' pinching want and dire neceſſity, reducing by our cruel parſimony a hapleſs wretch to barter his honeſty to ſupport a miſerable life, which too often brings it to a ſhameful period. As this reflection is not pointed at particulars, I hope I ſhan't incur any diſpleaſure, and that whoever may ſtand in need of this hint, will make a proper uſe of it for their own ſakes, as well as for the benefit of the NECESSITOUS part of the creation.

I ſhall now proceed to give a ſtrong inſtance of this noble virtue in young Du-

mont. The young gentleman and his governor on their return from hunting one morning, being caught in a ſudden and violent ſhower of rain, rode up to a little hovel, built for the reception of cattle, upon Windſor-foreſt; they diſmounted and enter'd this friendly ſhelter, where to their mutual amazement, they found a beautiful boy about fourteen years of age, plainly, but genteely dreſs'd, wringing his little hands, and in all appearance ready to expire thro' exceſs of grief; they immediately enquired into the cauſe of his lamentation, but the unhappy youth was entirely diſpoſſeſs'd of the power to anſwer their demands, a flood of tears and bittereſt ſobs broke in upon his ſpeech, which for ſome time he vainly attempted to recover; the gentlemen being anxious to know the meaning of this immoderate ſorrow, patiently waited till the child was capable of informing them of the cauſe; which he began by telling them, that he was, without exception, the moſt wretched of the whole creation. I laſt week, ſaid he, buried a tender and indulgent mother, ſhe was a widow, left by my father but in indifferent circum-

circumſtances, he was a gentleman of a moderate fortune, who from an exceſs of good nature impair'd his income, by being frequently bound for others debts, which reduced him to the neceſſity of mortgaging the little eſtate we lived in to a younger brother of his, who had a legacy left him by a diſtant relation at the very time my father was drove to this misfortune: in ſhort my uncle who is the very reverſe of the deſcription I have given you of my father, lent him three hundred pounds upon the houſe and ground, with a ſordid view of becoming abſolutely maſter of it, from the hopes of my father's never being able to redeem it, tho' the eſtate is valued at a thouſand pounds; in ſhort my father died ſoon after this affair happen'd, leaving my mother in a diſtracted condition to contrive a means to ſupport herſelf and me, who was then but two years of age; however providence put it in her power to get not only a livelihood by keeping a little ſhop and a day ſchool for young ladies to learn particular fine works, but ſhe was alſo enabled to give me an education beyond what might have been expected from

the melancholy ſituation ſhe was left in. Mr. Evelyn interrupted him with enquiring what ſort of education his mother had beſtowed on him; to which the youth replied, what I believe, Sir, you will allow to be a good one, and as much as is neceſſary for one in my ſtation of life, having been in the Greek form for near a twelve-month before my mother died; here the hapleſs child, again o'ercome by freſh ſtreams of grief, and deep-fetch'd ſighs paus'd a while--When his tears gave way proceeded in his ſtory, with many tender expreſſions of gratitude, for the great care his deceaſed mother had taken in the bringing of him up, and that he thought himſelf under treble obligations to her, as he was very ſenſible ſhe denied herſelf many neceſſaries of life to beſtow the larger ſhare of her ſmall pittance upon him. Now, gentlemen, I muſt inform you that this uncle of mine is a man of neither principle nor humanity, as you will find by the ſequel of my ſtory, which conſtrain'd my dear mother to part from many things of value, to pay the intereſt of this mortgage; which ſhe did, till ſickneſs, in which ſhe lingered for near

fifteen

fifteen months, diſempowered her to continue the payment; as ſoon as it pleaſed heaven to deprive me of her, this cruel uncle came and took poſſeſſion of all I was worth in the world, and before my face, borrowed a ſum of money on the eſtate, of a perſon he brought with him for that purpoſe; when I aſk'd the reaſon of this barbarous proceeding, and beg'd him to forgoe the wrong he was doing me, he was regardleſs of my ſupplication, and with brutal rage, cruelly inſulted my diſtreſs; then with his horſe-whip ſeverely drove me out of doors to beg or ſtarve, threatning me with death if ever I preſumed to come near the houſe again. How, ſaid Dumont, had you no friend to take your part in this extremity? None, Sir, replied the Lad, but my ſchool-maſter, who endeavouring to defend me from the dreadful laſhes of his whip, received a fatal blow, which inſtantly ſtruck out his eye, and I fear the other is much endanger'd. I have ſecreted myſelf in this melancholly retreat theſe ſix and thirty hours, nor have I ſeen the face of a living ſoul till now, and whither to go, or what courſe to take,

I know not. Then the dread of meeting my uncle, ſometimes makes me reſolve not to quit it, but patiently reſign myſelf to grief and want, till the friendly hand of death ſhall end my wretched life.

Mr. Dumont was ſo affected with the youth's diſtreſs, and ſenſible deportment, that he determin'd to be his friend, bidding him take comfort, and would have perſwaded him to have gone back with them to this inhuman wretch; which offer the boy would on no terms accept, but with a thankful modeſty declined it; adding, that if they were doubtful of the truth of what he had aſſerted, if they pleaſed to have farther conviction of it, he would direct them where to go, and hear the melancholly tale retold by Mr. Williams, the unfortunate man who loſt his eye in his defence. This was readily agreed to by Mr. Dumont and his governor, and taking directions from him they ſet out, leaving one of his ſervants behind to get ſomething at the next village to recruit the ſpirits of the oppreſs'd infant, and accompany him till their return; they rode with full ſpeed, with an abſolute determination to bring the uncle to juſtice for

his

his inhuman treatment of an innocent boy; but when they came they found the houſe ſhut up, and upon enquiry were told, the villain had ſold off all the goods the day before, and went off the moment the ſale was over; they proceeded then to the ſchool-maſter, whom they found in great agony from the loſs of his eye, which was conſiderably augmented by the grief he ſuſtain'd for the hard uſage and loſs of the poor boy, whoſe character was related to Dumont in a moſt affectionate and tender manner, and beſpoke that care and fond regard he afterwards met with in the Count's family; which was no ſmall joy to the good tutor to hear his little pupil had fallen into ſuch honourable hands. Mr. Dumont took leave of the good man, and left him ten guineas that he might not want proper aſſiſtance in this unhappy exigence; the eager deſire this noble youth had to relieve the afflicted, redoubled his haſte; when he return'd to the child, whom he ſmiling bid to be of comfort, ordering one of the ſervants to take him before him on horſeback, and conduct him ſafely to the Count's. When they got home young Dumont

Dumont left the child with Mr. Evelyn below ſtairs, while he went to his grand papa's apartment and gave him the hiſtory of the poor abandon'd orphan; not forgetting the fair character the maſter gave him, with which the good Count was no leſs delighted than his grandſon, and was pleaſed to find this early proof of his humanity to a worthy object of compaſſion. Young Dumont ſoon found that intreaties on the lad's behalf were needleſs, from the profound attention he gave to the recital of his ſtory, and the tender effect it had upon his generous mind, which diſcovered itſelf by his involuntary ſighs; the child was ſent for up, whoſe melancholly and ſenſible aſpect, mixed with a ſweetneſs of behaviour, directly influenced the Count in his favour, who from that inſtant protected and bred him as his adopted ſon; his education in which he had made a great progreſs when under Mr. Williams's tuition, was compleated by the ſuperior judgment of Mr Evelyn, who was allow'd to be without exception one of the moſt learned gentlemen the age produced.

Young Jennings (that was the boy's name)

name) from a natural propenſity to virtue, took care from every action of his life, to bid defiance to the moſt envious and malicious tongue of ſlander, and it would be difficult to determine whether his patron's benefactions, or the grateful ſenſe of them in the much obliged youth exceeded moſt. Five years paſt on, in which time an uninterrupted courſe of friendſhip was worthily and ſolemnly contracted between theſe young gentlemen; one day as they were walking in the garden, Jennings appear'd ſomewhat uneaſy, which Dumont diſcovering inſiſted upon being acquainted with the cauſe; which the other for ſome time declined to ſatisfy him of, till Dumont urged him by the ſtrict bonds of friendſhip, whatever was his uneaſineſs, to impart it to his friend. Jennings could no longer reſiſt his ſolicitation, when enforced by ſo ſtrong an argument, and fetching a deep ſigh, beg'd him not to be offended at a reſolution he had taken to go abroad; this unexpected turn of mind was at firſt received by Dumont as a mark of diſregard and ingratitude, till the other convinced him to the contrary in the manner following.

lowing. My honour'd and much valued friend, ſaid he, when I think of ſeperating from you, it is equally terrible as what I muſt have conceived of an unexpected and untimely ſtroke of death; but I have one reaſon in particular, which ſtrengthens my reſolution of undergoing the dreadful pangs of parting with you; and in my turn muſt beg you by the ſame ties of friendſhip, not to enquire into it, or wiſh to know it till you have it under my own hand in my firſt letter after my departure; which he faithfully promiſing ſhould be the caſe, his generous friend would not perſiſt in endeavouring to find it out, though his curioſity was raiſed to the higheſt pitch; one motive he own'd for going, was a violent deſire to convince his worthy friends that their kind indulgence had not buried in him the thoughts of induſtry, but rather prompted him to exert himſelf in that reſpect, that they might ſee their tender care was not loſt or thrown away upon him; and that he thought it his duty, and the only grateful inſtance he could give of his ſenſe of all their favours to become no longer burthenſome, ſince they had ſo

largely

largely contributed to qualify him for any employment in life.

Dumont would fain have perſuaded him to ſtay, affirming to him that fortune ſhould never be wanting to continue him with them: that, Sir, I am well aſſured on, replied young Jennings, and I am not to learn that your affluence is ſufficient to make many more ſuch objects of compaſſion truly happy; but notwithſtanding that, I cannot reconcile it to myſelf to remain an unneceſſary burden to ſuch valuable friends, when I may employ my time in ſome induſtrious calling that may do honour to my noble benefactors, who empowered me to make the laudable purſuit; and to convince you farther, Sir, that I muſt think my propoſition juſt, the Count conſented to it, and gave Mr. Evelyn orders to agree with Mr. Bryan the Weſt-India merchant that viſits here, to take me as his clerk, and to furniſh me with every thing proper for my voyage, if I could prevail on you to approve of my deſign. Mr. Dumont told him that was the laſt thing in the world he ſhould have wiſh'd or expected; but as he found him ſo intent upon the affair, he would

not

not be the means of preventing him, though he aſſured him it was with the ſtrongeſt reluctance he gave into it; and reminded him of his promiſe to diſcloſe in his firſt letter the principal reaſon for going, which he till then kept ſecret. The affair being concluded, the young gentleman was equip'd with every thing not only neceſſary, but perfectly genteel, and the generous Count gave into the hands of Mr. Bryan, who was a man of undoubted worth, the ſum of five hundred pounds, to be diſpoſed of in merchandizing, as a little fortune for him when he had ſerved his clerkſhip.

The time appointed for his departure being come, he and the whole family wore one contracted brow of real ſorrow; the Count was too much concern'd at parting from him to bear the ſhock of ſeeing him take ſhipping, but young Dumont reſolved to do a violence to his tender diſpoſition, and accompanied with Mr. Evelyn, waited on him to Graveſend, where a melancholly ſcene of ſeparation enſued, which is needleſs to deſcribe to a ſenſible mind and humane heart.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Jennings *arrives in the* Indies.—*Sends a Letter to* Dumont, *in which he makes a Diſcovery.—Some remarkable Occurrences.*

MR. Bryan and his young clerk, arrived ſafely in the Indies, after as expeditious a voyage as they could poſſibly expect; but poor Jennings, from the time of his leaving England, underwent a ſettled melancholly, which, notwithſtanding his kind maſter's endeavours to divert, it was impoſſible to remove or even to aſſwage; nor will the reader be ſurprized at the cauſe, though he muſt applaud his generous motive of concealment, which the following letter to his dear friend ſoon revealed.

To Henry Dumont, Eſq;

SIR,

WERE it poſſible for me more than in words to expreſs the ſatisfaction and ineffable joy I poſſeſs in the honour of your unbounded friendſhip,

I ſhould be proud to do it, even at Life's expence, and eſteem it but as a trifling return, for the innumerable inſtances of your unprecedented tenderneſs; the repeated obligations conferred on me by your noble grandſire, and worthy ſelf, are the pleaſing contemplations of my mind. Nor can I ever ſufficiently acknowledge the friendly care of my ever Honoured Maſter Mr. Evelyn, whoſe conſtant aſſiduity in my education, ſhall meet with a laſting gratitude from his affectionate pupil.

I ſhall now, dear ſir, keep my word in giving you the reaſon of my firſt reſolution to travel, but muſt conjure you ſir, to forgive my encouraging a fond deluſive paſſion, which was aimed at a lovely object, far above my hopes —— in a word, the beautiful and incomparable Miſs Evelyn, —— now the ſecret is divulg'd —— I tremble, leſt my noble friend might have deſign'd himſelf to be the happy partner of her heart; the dread of which obliged me to ſmother up a flame, that had like to have given a period to my life. Then

as

as I was conſcious, none could be ſo worthy of her as yourſelf; and that my hapleſs fate, had caſt me far beneath her, I thought myſelf doubly bound in reſpect to the Lady, and gratitude to a much valued friend, to try to ſuppreſs my growing love, which I find even abſence can't effect; but reſolved on that as the moſt likely remedy to mitigate the ſufferings of a deſpairing, and I fear a broken heart.

Dear ſir, let this unhappy ſtroke of fate, be buried in your boſom; and be aſſured, nothing but the fears of being thought guilty of black ingratitude, and diſ-regard of the beſt of friends, ſhould have drawn the ſecret from

Honoured SIR,

Your moſt obliged and devoted Servant,

ALEXANDER JENNINGS.

The grateful motive for his ſtifling his paſſion, and the noble reſolution of making

king himſelf a ſacrifice, rather than wrong his friend, wrought ſuch an effect upon Dumont, that notwithſtanding the injunction laid on him not to diſcloſe the ſecret, he directly ſhew'd the letter to the Count and Mr. Evelyn; in hopes the faithful youth might by that means obtain the dear reward for all his pain and generous concealment.

On the peruſal of Jennings's epiſtle to Dumont, the Count and Mr. Evelyn expreſſed the tendereſt concern, but were unable to decide in his favour, as his happineſs or miſery was entirely dependant on Miſs Evelyn's determination; in ſhort, the whole family intereſted themſelves ſo far in his behalf, that they urged daily the merit of her lover; nor could ſhe make the leaſt objection to his perſon, which was entirely agreeable; and conſiderably heightened by a nobleneſs of mind, rarely to be found.

And that want of fortune, might be no obſtruction to the crowning his wiſhes, the Count offered Miſs Evelyn to double the fortune he gave her, when an infant, to make him worthy her acceptance. But alaſs! poor Jennings, not-

notwithſtanding ſo many powerful advocates, was caſt in his ſuit. For Miſs Evelyn poſitively declined all thoughts of marriage; and as her own heart was not equally engag'd, ſhe entreated both the Count and her papa not to inſiſt with her compliance to their requeſt; acknowledging herſelf extreamly honoured, and obliged for the trouble they had given themſelves on the account; allowing at the ſame time, that Mr. Jennings was a youth of many promiſing virtues; that ſhe ſhould ever retain a grateful friendſhip for him, and was truly concerned at her being the unhappy, tho' innocent cauſe of his diſtreſs.

Upon this declaration, the ſubject was dropped, for both the Count and Mr. Evelyn, thought it would be but a ridiculous cruelty to inſiſt upon obedience in an affair, where her own happineſs was ſo principally concerned. And as ſhe was in every other point perfectly reſigned to their wills, gratitude and affection equally compelled them, not to lay any violent reſtraint on hers.

Young Jenning's paſſion for Miſs Evelyn, had ſo noble an effect on his mind, that it enlarged and brightened thoſe qualifications art and nature had endowed him with; in every action of his life, he demonſtrated how much he ſtudied to deſerve her; in ſhort, he was the univerſal admiration of the iſland in which he lived, and behaved ſo much beyond his maſter's expectation, that he converſed with him as a friend, even in his voyage, and when his time was out, paying him the five hundred pounds given by the Count, he added as much more, with an offer to make him partner with him in merchandize; which Jennings declined, as as he was not poſſeſſed of a fortune ſufficient to undertake an affair of ſo much conſequence.

But providence ſoon made him amends for his generous refuſal, by the death of his maſter, who was ſeized with a malignant fever in about ſix months after he had made Jennings this offer; and having no relations, left him his ſole heir, and maſter of five and twenty thouſand pounds.

This

This augmentation of fortune encouraged the amorous youth immediately to ſend a letter to young Dumont, with a propoſal of marriage to Miſs Evelyn; and to diſcloſe, as he thought, his long ſtifled fondneſs; as buſineſs would not permit him to go over directly, he entreated Dumont if he had no intention of an alliance there, that he would urge his paſſion to the utmoſt of his power; that the fears of being thought only an intereſted lover, and the danger of offending his deareſt friends, had almoſt wrought his diſſolution. But as he had it now in his power to convince Miſs Evelyn of the contrary of the former, and had been aſcertained by Dumont's letters, that he run no hazard of the latter; he entertained from his friend's interceſſion ſome hopes of ſucceſs. But he was ſoon aſſur'd of the uncertainty of human happineſs, let the proſpect be e'er ſo fair and probable, for Miſs Evelyn, ſo far from inclining to his wiſhes, continued quite inexorable; nor could his Fortune prevail; which made the family ſuſpect there was a ſecret reaſon for ſo abſolute a refuſal; and as

they could not discover it by her behaviour, they were resolved not to make the least inquiry, till time should give it birth.

Young Jennings did not fail to reward his old tutor, and worthy friend Mr. Williams, to whom he sent a bill for a hundred pounds, drawn upon a merchant in the city of London, with an offer to come over to the Indies, or accept of a yearly remittance for life; but the fond old man was so transported at the thoughts of seeing him, he rather chose to go over to him (not knowing that Miss Evelyn might, in all probability, have brought him soon to England; and the Letter young Dumont sent prevented his coming as he intended) the good man arrived in the Indies, to the real joy of his worthy friend, who by his grateful remembrance of him relieved him from a laborious pursuit of support, for at best but an uneasy life, and by his tender care render'd him happy during the remaining part. That the old gentleman thought himself more than amply rewarded for all his sufferings past, and after a few years of uninterrupted tranquility,

quility, ended his life, with a grateful ſenſe of his Creator's goodneſs, who not only bleſs'd his latter days, but gave him the inexpreſſible delight to ſee his child (as he always called him) raiſed to ſuch a wondrous height of happineſs, and poſſeſs'd of ſuch virtues as might enable him to retain and to deſerve it.

Poor Mr. Jennings remained for ſome time very melancholly for the loſs of his dear maſter, which he called him to the hour of his death; and his diſtreſs was, in a great meaſure, aggravated in the want of a friend, to whom he could unboſom his mind. His love to Miſs Evelyn having made ſo deep an impreſſion on his heart, that life became a burden to him, nor could even riches make the leaſt amends for the ſmalleſt of his ſufferings.

One day a gentleman, in the courſe of converſation, aſk'd him why he would not marry, and told him he was very ſenſible that he had met with the greateſt offers of any perſon in the whole iſland; upon which Mr. Jennings proceeded to give the reaſon why he had declined the acceptation of every propoſal of marriage

that had been made to him. When after a profound attention given by the gentleman to what Jennings had recited, my dear friend, ſaid he, I know a beautiful virgin in this iſland who ſuffers as much for you as you endure from the lady's refuſal in England. She is a perſon of no great fortune, but her worth, as a girl of ſenſe, and exemplary virtue, puts her upon an equality with the beſt eſtate in Europe; and ſince you are certain you cannot be happy with her you love, e'en make Her happy whom you may be aſſured wiſhes to make you ſo.

Mr. Jennings could not ſo ſuddenly acquieſce with his friend's requeſt, but deſired a little conſideration on the affair, and to be acquinted with the young lady which his friend entreated might be ſoon, otherwiſe it was poſſible a few days might end her life and miſery together.

Young Jennings knew too well the power of love not to bear a part in the lady's affliction, and appointed a day for an interview with the enamour'd fair one; reſolving, if ſhe were but tolerably agreeable, to marry her, as being the moſt likely

likely means to overcome his violent paſſion for the other. According to appointment, he went to pay his reſpects to his friend, where he ſaw the lady, whoſe beauty was rather heightned than impair'd in his opinion, by a melancholly ſweetneſs in her countenance; and the ſurprize and joy of ſeeing Him ſhe ſecretly loved, revived the faded roſes in her cheeks. The gentleman of the houſe (who was a diſtant relation, and guardian to this lady and a younger ſiſter) had drop'd a diſtant hint of Jennings's intended viſit, but not a ſyllable of the deſign of it, leaſt it ſhould fail, and render the poor creature more wretched than before. However, her tranſport at the ſight of him was too ſtrong to permit her to ſtay in the room, from which ſhe was ſcarce retired to another, but ſhe fainted in her couſin's arms; who perceiving her uneaſineſs, had follow'd her out, when, after bringing her to herſelf, he return'd alone to Mr. Jennings, and told him by what means they became acquainted with her paſſion for him; you muſt know, ſaid he, ſhe has a pretty turn to poetry, and being inſpired by

love, wrote a copy of verſes upon your worſhip, which ſhe accidentally dropping, her little ſiſter found and gave to me. I confeſs I could not blame her, as ſhe had ſo luckily beſtowed her heart on one, whom no woman need bluſh at admiring; but the uncertainty of being ſucceſsful in her love, made me endeavour, by gentle means, to diſſwade her from the purſuit of a hopeleſs paſſion. But alaſs, in vain were my admonitions! I ſoon found her fondneſs had taken ſuch root, that it prey'd upon her mind, and I fear will end in her diſſolution. Not if I can prevent it, replied Mr. Jennings; perhaps fate has ſteel'd Miſs Evelyn's heart againſt me, as a means to make another happy who has a better claim to my regard than that cruel beauty; and ſince your kinſwoman has honour'd me with ſo tender an affection, gratitude compels me to endeavour to transfer my unbounded ſtock of love for Miſs Evelyn to her, who will meet it with a proportionable ſhare on her ſide.

This reſolution gave the gentleman great ſatisfaction, as he knew they were worthy of each other, and that it would

happily

happily put an end to a very troubleſome and dangerous fit of love that might have coſt both their lives.

Mr. Jennings was ſo cautious of giving her the leaſt ſuſpicion of his knowing what intereſt he had in her heart, that he addreſs'd her with all the ſeeming dread of a denial; nor was his mind tainted with that vanity and preſuming power the young fellows of this age are too naturally prone to on ſuch occaſions; ſo far from it, tho' he was ſure of his conqueſt, he never by word or look diſcover'd, till the marriage was fix'd on, that he was conſcious of the ſecret joy ſhe received by the alliance.

In about ſix weeks time they were publickly married; and Mr. Jennings, on his wedding day, ſettled her fortune, which was a thouſand pounds, on her younger ſiſter, and a jointure of eight hundred a year on his bride: time, and Mrs. Jennings's prudent behaviour, removed all thoughts of Miſs Evelyn from her huſband's mind, and they lived the moſt perfect examples of conjugal affection that ever enter'd into the holy bands of wedlock.

The news of this match was ſent to young Dumont as ſoon as poſſible, and was received with a general joy in the family, hoping that the deſign of it might have the deſired effect, in preventing the loſs of their much valued friend.

CHAP. VI.

Miſs Evelyn *goes to* Tunbridge. *An odd Adventure happens there.*

YOung Dumont had by this time finiſhed his ſtudies, which, with all other neceſſary accompliſhments, compleated him a perfect fine gentleman; but not that ſort of fine gentlemen which Mr. Woodward ſo inimitably repreſents in Mr. Garrick's celebrated dramatick performance call'd Lethe, or Æſop in the ſhades; for which the town are much obliged to the author, and the player, for having largely contributed to their entertainment ſo many ſucceſſive years, and which has rather encreas'd, than pall'd

pall'd the appetite, notwithſtanding they have been ſo often fed with it.

But to return to Dumont, his grandpapa began to conſider him now in a different light; as he, tho' not paſt his minority, diſcovered the Man in every thought and action: and that he might be better able to judge of his diſpoſition, entirely took off that reſtraint which lay upon him, during the time of his education. The firſt ſtep he took towards making him maſter of himſelf, was allowing him a thouſand pounds a year; and by the management of that, he could the eaſier diſcern what might be expected from him, when poſſeſs'd of many thouſands more.

Nor were his hopes and expectations unanſwer'd; for tho' he ſuddenly launched into all the pleaſures of life without controulment, he uſed them but as innocent amuſements, without becoming their SLAVE; and in every circumſtance kept up that noble character, which the example of his grandſire had ſet before him.

The firſt grand publick appearance he made was at Tunbridge, accompanied

by Mrs. Evelyn and her daughter; Mr. Evelyn was obliged to ſtay with the Count, who, confined partly by the gout, and an invincible ſorrow for his daughter's loſs, never ſtirred above four or five miles for the Air ſometimes.

The magnificent appearance they made, attracted every eye, and excited the curioſity of all the company there; they being ſtrangers to all but Lord Worthland, and Sir John Generous, who joined their party. The fortune-hunters of both ſexes, were at their wits-ends to engage with young Dumont and Miſs Evelyn, tho' it proved to very little purpoſe. But among the reſt that made pretenſions, was a ſtrange mortal, who ſeeing Dumont dance at the ball one night with Miſs Evelyn, ſent the following fond epiſtle, directed.

To Henry Demount Eſq;

Dere Cretor;

"I Hop you vont be uffinded at the "libarty I tak, in trubling you with

" with thes lins, and that the ardunt piſh-
" on I have concei'd for your angelack
" form, will plede my pardun. When
" you dans'd laſt night, you gave the
" fatal blo, which will be my utter ruen,
" unleſs you koindly anſwer my bondles
" luf; I know you ar a parſon of for-
" tin, ſo um I, and do aſure you,
" vere not my charmer vorth one far-
" din in the vorld, ſuſh beuty voud
" make amends for ſuſh a vant. Per-
" met me lufly objeckt, to meet you
" this evening at the fiſh-ponds, vher I
" may be happy in paeing my riſpex to
" the divine charmur of my ſoul. Be-
" lieve me lufly cretor my only viſh is
" to convince you, how mutch I am
" vith utmurſt ſincerity,

Your conſtant adorer,

BILLY LOVEMAN.

The extraordinary ſtile and ſpelling diverted him exceedingly; but being intirely innocent of ſuch unnatural proceedings, concluded there muſt be a

miſtake in the direction, and that the letter muſt be deſigned for Miſs Evelyn, to whom he directly carried it; apologizing for his having opened it; which error, he told her, ſhe muſt attribute to the perſon, who had certainly made a miſtake in the ſuperſcription, was the reaſon of its being delivered to him.

Miſs Evelyn read the amorous epiſtle, laughing inwardly to a violent degree during the peruſal; then returning the paper, Mr. Dumont, ſaid ſhe, I don't ſuppoſe the perſon who wrote it, would caſt his eyes upon an odious Female; and I am poſitive the letter was meant as directed.

Dear Madam, replied Dumont, 'tis impoſſible; 'tis true I have heard there are a ſet of unnatural wretches, who are ſhamefully addicted to a vice, not proper to be mentioned to ſo delicate an ear as yours; but my behaviour could not in any degree give the ſmalleſt hope to the unnatural paſſion of ſuch a deteſtable brute. I therefore think it highly incumbent on me, to make an example of the villain.

Miſs Evelyn would fain have diſſuaded him from his purpoſe, but in vain; for young Dumont was apprehenſive, that the bare mention of his name from the mouth of ſuch a wretch, might throw an imputation on his character, which he had rather ſuffer death than deſerve.

Mrs Evelyn was of the young gentleman's mind, and urged him to put his revenge in immediate execution; adviſing him. to conſult with Lord Worthland and Sir John Generous, and entreat them to be witneſſes; as an affair of that nature muſt be neceſſary to prevent any calumny the monſter might poſſibly raiſe on account of the deſerved treatment and diſappointment he ſhould meet from Mr. Dumont. And in order to perpetrate the deſign, adviſed him to ſend only a verbal anſwer, to let the creature know he would attend his ſummons; and in the mean time, ſend or go to Sir John Generous, and communicate the affair to him.

Mr. Dumont's valet brought his maſter word, that the ſervant who came with the letter, deſired an immediate an-

anſwer. The valet having a kind of reſtrained laugh on his face, his maſter aſked him the occaſion? I beg your honour's pardon, ſays he, but the ſight of the perſon who waits the anſwer, put me into ſuch a fit of laughing, I had ſcarce power to compoſe myſelf ſufficiently, to bring the meſſage to you Sir. I really take it to be a young wench in boy's cloaths, by the ſoftneſs of the voice, and the effeminacy of his behaviour. For heaven's ſake, ſays Miſs Evelyn, let the creature come up, 'twill divert us.

Mr. Dumont's ſervant went down, and brought up the moppit; whoſe hair was curl'd in the form of a fine lady's, and ſcented the room with perfumes, it ſet their heads aching from the violent ſtrength of it; his dreſs was a fine milk-white fuſtian frock, with green ſattin cape and facings, a white cambrick handkerchief careleſsly tied round his neck, and a pair of white gloves; one of which he pulled off, and diſcovered a beautiful white hand, with a handſome diamond ring on the little finger.

Upon Mr. Dumont's enquiry into what poſt he held under Mr. Loveman, he anſwered, Dear ſir, I'm a young decay'd geman, but think myſelf happy now ſince the loſs of my fortin, to be vale de chamber to my deer maſter ſquire Loveman; and a deer indulgint ſoul he is, for if my fingur do but ake, he's like a crazy cretor; t'other day one of the footmen trod upon my toe, and bru s'd me in a moſt barbrus manner, I believe indeed the willing owed me a ſpight, and my maſter turn'd him of at a minits varning, and ſent for two of the moſt aminent furgins in townd, to inſult about the cure. And indeed a great cure it vas, for every body thought I ſhould have loſt my toe-nail, it looked ſo black under it—— then lifting up his eyes, thanked providence, and the care of the ſurgins the nail was preſerved, and he was perfectly recovered of the unhippy iccident.

That's a happineſs indeed, ſaid Miſs Evelyn, who knows the conſequence of your loſing your toe-nail! you might not for ought I know, have been able to

to have run of an errand theſe ſix months. Very true, dear lady, anſwered Mr. Turtle, (for that was the ſoft creature's name) but if that had been the caſe, 'twould have been in all the news-papers. But vorthy Sir, I believe by this time, my maſter expects me to dreſs him, pleaſe to give me your honour's orders. My compliments, ſays Mr. Dumont, and I ſhall wait on on him at the time and place appointed.

The pretty creature had not been gone above a quarter of an hour, before Lord Worthland and Sir John Generous came to pay a viſit; who were immediately informed of the affair, and reſolved to join with Mr. Dumont in his revenge on the unnatural ſcoundrel, for daring to make ſuch an attempt upon a very honourable and worthy young gentleman.

About the hour of five after dinner, they went to the fiſh-ponds, which was the place propoſed. Lord Worthland and Sir John went in a little before, and called for a bottle of champaign

paign by themſelves in a different room.

Mr. Dumont came in a few minutes after, and was conducted by Mr. Loveman's footman, up one pair of ſtairs, to the enamoured ſwain, who had been waiting impatiently for his arrival above an hour.

When he came in he ſaw an elegant cold collation ſet forth, the window curtains cloſe drawn and pinn'd; but found no body in the room; when aſking for the gentleman, the ſervant ſneered, and told him, his Lady would wait upon him directly; when immediately there appeared from the inner-chamber, this odious creature in a female rich diſhabille; who running to Mr. Dumont, cried out, 'I come, I 'fly, to my adored Caſtalio's arms! my 'wiſhes lord! — ſtopping here, with a languiſhing air, ſaid, Do my angel, call me your Monimia! then with a beaſtly tranſport, kiſſed him with that ardour, which might be expected from a drunken fellow to a common proſtitute. Mr. Dumont being now fully convinced of his horrid deſign, without farther ce-

ceremony knocked him down, and disciplined him with his cane; till the monſter was almoſt immoveable.

The noiſe of his falling brought up Lord Worthland, Sir John, and the landlord, who were ſurprized to ſee Mr. Loveman's odd transformation; but he recollected his footman carried up a large bundle, little conceiving what it contained, or to what end it was brought.

Lord Worthland and Sir John would have beſtowed their favours on him; but Mr. Dumont deſired they would not rob him of the leaſt part of his revenge, nor indeed was there any need; for Dumont who never ſuffered paſſion, without juſt grounds to influence his mind, thought he had ſo juſtifiable an excuſe for it on this occaſion, he gave it full ſcope, and left the wretch juſt life enough to confeſs his crime, and publickly beg pardon.

The hiſtory of this affair in a few minutes got wind, ſufficient to blow a whole mob together. And when the male-madam was permitted to decamp as he was, leading between two to his

his chariot, they ſnatched him from his ſupporters, and very handſomely ducked him in the fiſh-pond; nor had he a friend on his ſide, for even his own coachman and footman, tho' they were not aſſiſtant in his puniſhment, were heartily glad to ſee him undergo it. Mr. Dumont having had ſufficient revenge, his anger began to ſubſide, and as the wretch wore a human form, (tho' in principle below a beaſt) his pity and good nature reſumed their throne, and by dint of a handful of ſilver thrown to the populace, they ſuffered the ſhameful object of their contempt to be hurried as faſt as poſſible to his lodgings, where the news had got before him; and as a farther addition to his misfotune, poor Mr. Turtle, who was ſent with the letter, (not knowing the contents of it,) as injured wives are apt to ſhew violent reſentment, when they find their huſbands are engaged in intrigues, flew about the houſe, raving like a diſtracted thing, menacing bittereſt revenge on him and his filty creter; adding, corſe me, if I forgive this willingy; this is the ſecond time you have wronged me;

if

if I bear it a third, the fault ſhall be mine; I deſire we may ſaprate, ungrateful man; I have ever been true to you, and this is my reward.

Mr. Loveman, who was in too miſerable a condition to expoſtulate with his offended fair; begged madam for that time to ſet aſide its anger, and give what aſſiſtance he cou'd towards his relief. Surgeons were ſent for, under whoſe hands he remained for above a month, before he could be moved. At the expiration of which time, he was forced to go privately away from Tunbridge, for fear of a ſecond encounter; and the fracea between him and his lady was made up, (as one of the ſervants informed us, who overheard their diſcourſe) with a faithful promiſe to retire from the world, and live *ſhepherdeſſes together in ſome remote country.*

Mr. Dumont ſatisfied the poor landlord, for the preparations made for him by the love-ſick ſquire, and ſome damages done in the fray. Then the three friends returned home, and gave the hiſtory of their adventure to Miſs Evelyn

Evelyn and her mama. Mrs. Evelyn tho' ſhe allowed the juſtice of the thing, could not help pittying the unhappy creature; but Miſs ſaid, ſhe could not entertain the leaſt grain of compaſſion, for that in her opinion, no puniſhment was ſufficiently ſevere for ſuch unnatural monſters.

When they had finiſhed their narration, the ladies propoſed taking a turn in the Queen's Grove, which was readily accepted by all, particularly Sir John Generous; who was paſſionately, but at that time ſecretly in love with Miſs Evelyn; nor was Lord Worthland totally free from the power of her beauty, but his being a married man, and conſcious that Miſs Evelyn's virtue was invincible, prudently declined any opportunity of encouraging a paſſion he knew would only be a motive of grief, without the leaſt hope of redreſs; ſo took his leave and went to the hazard table.

On their return they paſs'd the reſt of the evening till ſupper time at cards; Mr. Dumont took notice Sir John did not mind one tittle of his game, but kept his eyes fix'd on his lovely partner;

who

who, from his remiſſneſs in play, was drawn in to loſe ſeveral guineas; at laſt growing impatient at his careleſſneſs and her ill ſucceſs, ſhe changed him for Mr. Dumont, and Sir John was turned over to Mrs. Evelyn, who partook of her daughter's ill fortune equally; at laſt ſaid Dumont, I believe the only way to make Sir John mind his cards, will be to ſtake Miſs Evelyn. Upon which Sir John bluſh'd and trembled, and beg'd to give off playing; accordingly they did, and for about an hour Mr. Dumont and Miſs Evelyn entertain'd the Baronet and her Mama with muſick and ſinging; Mr. Dumont accompained Miſs's heavenly voice on the harpſichord; the reader may be ſure the melody of her pipe, with her ſkill conjoin'd, were not a little fatal to the lover's ear. Every charm this lady was poſſeſs'd of, threw in their darts by thouſands, yet notwithſtanding the violence of his paſſion, there was ſuch a commanding awe in her countenance, he durſt not give the leaſt hint of the conqueſt ſhe had made, but reſolved within himſelf, to impart his diſtreſs to his friend Dumont, which he did,

did, by ſending him a card next morning to meet him at the Glo'ſter tavern, then took his leave; how he reſted I leave to the imagination of all contemplative lovers, and as night is far ſpent, ſhall, in compaſſion to my readers, leave them to their repoſe.

CHAP. VII.

Mr. Dumont *meets Sir* John. *Their Diſcourſe. Three ſtrange Figures make an unexpected Appearance at the Ball at Night. A Deſcription of them.*

THE next morning Mr. Dumont haſtened to Sir John upon receiving the card, and found him repeating verſes to himſelf, which were encomiums adapted to the fair idol of his ſoul; he was ſo loſt in his rhapſodies that Mr. Dumont, who ſtood ſmiling at him, had been in the room near five minutes before he perceived him; at laſt ſpying him out, beg'd ten thouſand pardons; but, ſaid

ſaid he, you muſt forgive the fond raptures of a diſtracted lover, for, upon my ſoul, dear Dumont, that's my caſe. You might have ſpared that information, reply'd the other; your behaviour at cards laſt night was a ſufficient teſtimonial of your having loſt your ſenſes. I hope you don't mean that as a rough compliment to the lady, ſaid the baronet, for no man can be in his wits, or indeed have any ſenſe at all, that is incapable of feeling the efficacy of ſuch a fund of beauty, underſtanding, and ſweetneſs of diſpoſition. But perhaps, continued he, I am talking to a rival all this while. I aſſure you no, ſaid Dumont, my regard to Miſs Evelyn is founded entirely upon a fraternal friendſhip, and that with the utmoſt tenderneſs for her perſon, and due regard to her honour. I would not hear of an injury offered to either, nay, but barely intended, without revenging it with my ſword, tho' my life were to prove the forfeit for my integrity. I look on her as on a very beautiful picture, which all muſt be allow'd to admire; and in converſing with her, I think of her underſtanding as of a well-wrote volume, where

where, the more I read, I continually find out new beauties, and conſequently never tire in the peruſal. Is it poſſible, anſwered Sir John, you can have ſuch elevated thoughts, and yet keep your heart ſecure? but perhaps you are engaged elſewhere. Indeed, Sir, replied Dumont, I don't know that ever I was ſeriouſly in love in my life, though I promiſe you, I have a heart ſuſceptible of it, from ſome tender attacks in a few trifling gallantries with the fair ſex; but I have not yet met with the woman that is to make me her entire ſlave; when I do, I don't doubt but I ſhall appear as ridiculous a figure as you do now; did you but ſee how harmleſs you look, you would laugh at your own ſhadow; but come to the purpoſe.

I ſuppoſe the deſign of this interview is to engage me in your intereſt with Miſs Evelyn, and from your want of aſſurance, I muſt break the matter to her, is it not ſo? Truly gueſs'd, ſaid Sir John, if four thouſand a year clear eſtate can make her amends for the incumbrance of ſuch an odd fellow as I am; I'm ready to throw both at her feet to

 morrow

morrow morning; and, between you and I, all raillery apart, my dear friend, ſhe or death muſt be my portion. I have loved her to diſtraction near a twelve-month, and find myſelf unable any longer to bear the torment of uncertainty; therefore depend on your friendſhip to urge my ſuit with the moſt perſuaſive eloquence, which no one is more happily poſſeſs'd of than yourſelf.

Dumont faithfully promis'd him all the aſſiſtance in his power, adviſing him to wait patiently till their return from Tunbridge, in reſpect to the Count, who had adopted her as his own child; and however Miſs might be inclined to his propoſal, he was certain without his Lordſhip's approbation, it would be in vain to hope for ſucceſs; and farther urged, that he thought it a compliment due to his Grand-papa, to be firſt acquainted with it, nor upon any other conditions would he undertake his cauſe. The impatient lover thought it hard, but rather than run the hazard of not obtaining his wiſhes, acceded to the treaty, well knowing that all punctillio's of honour and reſpect to the Count, were ſtrictly kept up by

the whole family; and as he had the ſatisfaction of conſtantly viſiting there, it greatly leſſen'd the pain he muſt have otherwiſe endured from the protraction of his happineſs.

It growing near the uſual time of dreſſing, the gentlemen parted, but Sir John ſoon ran through that ceremony, and in about an hour's time was at Mr. Dumont's lodgings; by way of aſking the Ladies if they went to the ball that night, which was given by a young Nobleman who was juſt come of age, and to the poſſeſſion of a very great eſtate.

Miſs Evelyn told him they ſhould all be there, for that his Lordſhip had juſt ſent tickets before he come in; he then beg'd the favour of her hand as a partner in dancing, which ſhe readily conſented to, to the no ſmall tranſport of the deſiring lover.

In the evening they all went together, where there was a moſt ſplendid appearance of people of the firſt quality and diſtinction; but to the great ſurprize of this polite aſſembly, there ſuddenly appear'd three of the moſt droll and really groteſque figures that was ever repreſented

by way of burleſque upon either of the Engliſh Theatres, Sir Boiſtrous Blunder, with his ſon and daughter. Sir Boiſtrous was one of thoſe true hearted Engliſh gentlemen, who gave the ſtrongeſt proof of the regard he paid to thoſe glorious ſtaples of his country, *viz.* a good fat ox, and the beſt brew'd malt, not forgetting that neceſſary ingredient towards the compoſition of a well-fed country ſquire, call'd a pudding; the ſon's waiſt was within a few inches arrived to the glorious circumference of the Sire, and ſeem'd, by his bulk, to have been no leſs induſtrious in that happy acquiſition; nor did Miſs fall ſhort of either for ſize and ſtature; her full blown roſy cheeks, and ſturdy ſtructure, fully demonſtrated, that like "Cato's daughter, ſhe inherited all "her Father's virtues."

They were no ſooner enter'd, than the eyes of the whole aſſembly were employ'd in an exact ſurvey of them; nor could the antidiluvian figures they made, fail of fixing every beholder into an abſolute aſtoniſhment; their cloaths were of the faſhion of the laſt century; the young Lady had a garden ſattin gown and coat, which, undoubtedly, had been tranſmitted

mitted to poſterity for at leaſt ſix generations, with a hoop about the ſize of a milk pail, and a four-lappet head with a broad point lace, ſo loaded with ſtarch that a thump from one of the lappets might fairly have knocked down a porter; and ſuch an inundation of broad roſe-colour'd ribbands, a milliner might have ſubſiſted a quarter of a year from the profits of them; which, with the addition of a red neck and face, ſhe appear'd like a moving fire.

The ſon was as elegant in his dreſs, which conſiſted of a yellowiſh looking camblet, with a narrow boot ſleeve that was turn'd up very near his ſhoulder, adorn'd with a mighty narrow binding of half lace that looked like tape of a farthing a yard; his coat ſhort waiſted, and the ſkirts reaching at leaſt three parts downwards on his legs; his long lank ſorrel hair, to ſhow a diſtinguiſhing taſte, was tied back with a black ferret, about the length of an untam'd colt's tail; and the lovely bundle over his forehead, and each ſide his face, was a frequent impediment to his eyes and mouth; and the ſudorifick quality of his head render'd

the uſe of pomatum entirely needleſs. In ſhort, whoſoever has had the pleaſure of ſeeing Mr. Coſtollo's inimitable and droll performance of the character of 'Squire Timothy Gazette, in Mr. Foote's comedy of two acts, entitled the Knights, may have a true picture of him in that actor's lively repreſentation; whom, to do him a real piece of juſtice, I don't know any of his cotemporaries can equal in that part; and what conſiderably adds to the ſatisfaction he gives the Audience, he has ſenſe enough to play the fool *without laughing at his owu jokes*, but wiſely leaves that for the ſpectators to do; an error which, tho' he prudently avoids, moſt of our comedy actors are apt to run into, by which means they very juſtly acquire the character of buffoons.

I hope the unexperienced part of the ſtage, will (as Mr. Vellum ſays) pardon me for being jocular, but it is really true; and hope, for their own ſakes, they will have wit enough to take my hint, and follow Mr. Coſtollo's Example.

I muſt a ſecond time beg pardon for digreſſing from my ſubject, but as it bore ſome ſort of connexion, hope to be for-

given,

given, and ſhall now return to my ſtory.

The old gentleman was as great a curioſity as his worthy offſprings; his appearance beſpoke him a very old faſhion'd country grazier; his extream broad face and fat jowls, gave the company a perfect and lively idea of a Saracen's head; his bulk and ſtature very little inferior to the giants in Guild-hall; his behaviour was concomitant with the deſcription given of his perſon. As for example, through the exceſſive heat of the weather, and the multitude in the aſſembly, the knight very politely threw off his wig, turning the caul inſide out to dry, and ſlap'd it down by a well-dreſs'd young lady, who was obliged, from the ſickly ſcent, to have recourſe to the other end of the room; then, after rubbing himſelf down like a cart horſe, cover'd his reeking bald pate with a large ſilk handkerchief, ſtripping his cloaths open with both hands, ſhook his ſudorifick ſhirt, which had not a dry thread in it, till he had poiſon'd all the company, not only with the odious ſmell, but the beaſtly ſight of his dirty colour'd hairy boſom, that bore a ſtrong reſemblance

of a leafleſs hedge in winter. Miſs to mend the matter, undergoing the ſame inconveniencies of heat, began to rub Herſelf down as her well-bred papa had done juſt before; and turning to a man of Quality, bawls out lauk, lauk, meaſter, do but feel how I ſwot. Upon this a general laugh ſucceeded, which Miſs conceiving aroſe from her having ſaid a comical thing, join'd very heartily in, as did the father, who was proud of his daughter's vivacity, thunders out his riſible applauſe; aſſuring the nobleman, that Urſula was a ſtout wench, and if he would but talk to her he'd find her a match for him. I don't know but ſhe might, anſwer'd the young Lord, but I believe I ſhan't in a hurry be a match for her.

The young ſquire began to expreſs his uneaſineſs to his father, at being ſo long abſent from Ringwood and Jowler, deſiring 'em to go home; no, no, ſays the knight, let's ſee a little more jigging firſt; pox on't, ſays the ſon, I'm tired on't; drawing out a ſhort empty bench, ſtretch'd himſelf out like a corpſe, and in leſs than two minutes, fell into a moſt profound

found fit of ſnoring; in which he continued ſome time. The company requeſting a minuet and louvre from Mr. Dumont and Miſs Evelyn; the old man was charmed with their uncommon and attractive air, as his brother beaſts were by the ſweetneſs of Orpheus' pipe, and jumbling his heir apparent forced him to wake to obſerve them. With much difficulty the youth awoke; when he had ſufficiently yawn'd, and ſtretch'd forth his arms and legs, to the infinite hazard of thoſe who ſtood near him; he told his father, it might be very fine for ought he knew; but he had rather ſee his favourites Ringwood and Jowler in full career after a ſtag. Hold your tongue, you fool, ſays the father, I underſtand they are rich folks, and if I can, I'll make up a match with 'em for you and Urſula; when Madam has done dancing, do you go and have a little jaw with her; you dog you can be comical enough when you have a mind to't; dang me, if I do, ſaid the ſquire, (ſcratching his head) I don't underſtand half their lingo; they have got ſuch a pack of cramp words, the devil

himſelf don't know what to make of them. Pho! you blockhead, replied the knight, I'll talk to 'em myſelf, I warrant you I can find out their meaning, tho' your numpſcull can't.

When the dance was over, Sir Boiſtrous tying his handkerchief under his chin, with his hat in one hand, and his greaſy wig dangling in the other, marches boldly up to Mr. Dumont and his company; accoſting him in the manner following:

Well done young folks, e'god you two be the feeteſt of the ſet, I minded that; then turning to Sir John Generous, gave Him ſome degree of approbation; but aſſured Him, he was nothing to compare to the young man in the broidered coat; but I like you all, an if ſo be you come and foul a plate with me to-morrow, if you have got nothing better to do, you ſhall be wellcome; for I have got ſomething to ſay to you.

For heaven's ſake, ſaid Sir John, in a whiſper to Dumont, accept the invitation; I would not for fifty guineas loſe this ſport. Mr. Dumont in compliance

to

to his friend's requeſt, promiſed to wait on him.

The knight perceiving there were four of them, deſired 'em all to come. I ſee you are all of one knot, and one ſhall be wellcome as t'other; cried the hearty old man. Then calling to his daughter, with a hip ya ho, our Urſula! Miſs came ſtumping croſs the room, with the air and gentility of a plowman, and curtyſing upon one leg to the company; turned to her father, to know what he kept ſuch a hooping for? Why lookee, d'ye ſee, ſaid he, I have aſked theſe gentlefolks to dinner tomorrow; now do take care, d'ye ſee and get ſomething clever; now take notice, d'ye ſee, here's four of Them, and three of us, that makes ſeven; let there be plenty, that every one may have enough; full bellies, and empty platters, ſay I, Heh, young lady! applying to Miſs Evelyn, as to good liquor, that ſhall be my care, and a hearty wellcome you may depend on; ſo pray don't baulk me now, but be ſure to come; they faithfully promiſed, and kept their words.

The knight recollecting, that tea was a general uſe with the ladies in an afternoon, ſtrictly charged his daughter, to get an ounce of each ſort of the beſt; and a pound of the fineſt ſugar; that's an article, you muſt know ladies, we're ſeldom provided with; for my part, I don't know the taſte on't. And for Urſula and her brother, they generally make a hearty meal with me, of what's left of the cold meat the day before, and a tankard of ſtingo; but I have a good three thouſand a year, for all that; and lookee, d'ye ſee, adod I love to keep up the cuſtom of good Queen Beſſes days, when the maids of honour could make a hearty meal out of a rump of beef for breakfaſt; and I warrant they looked as fat and as fair as your fine ladies of the preſent age. A woman now that is bigger than a ſixpenny doll, is looked upon as a monſter; but lookee, had that ancient cuſtom been kept up, ſo many good eſtates would not have wanted heirs to 'em. A boy of ten years of age in thoſe days, was ſtouter than a man of five and twenty now; why there's my daughter,

ſhall

ſhall wreſtle or box with e'er a two men within fifty miles of her, for a wager of as many pounds.

Sir John Generous, who was expiring with laughing inwardly, could not help allowing, that Miſs gave very promiſing hopes of a happy capacity for ſo lively and neceſſary a qualification in a young lady: acknowledging, that he ſhould, tho' a well ſet and full grown young gentleman, be fearful to encounter her in a boxing match. I own Miſs is finely turn'd for that exerciſe; nor do I believe ſhe can poſſibly be matched by any of her ſiſter-females thro' the three kingdoms.

Sir Boiſtrous, whoſe ſtupidity took this ſpeech of Sir John's for a mark of approbation; anſwered, no truly I believe not; you ſee what a ſtout fellow her brother is, icod ſhe trip'd up his heels the other day, he could have no ſhare with her, a rare girl, a rare girl, I faith.

The old gentleman having ſufficiently deſcanted on the young lady's ſtrength and agility, thought it time to take leave for that night; repeating, from the farther end of the room, till he had reached the

the door, his injunctions on the company not to fail of their appointment; then ſtuffed himſelf and unſizeable daughter into their jingling chariot, which ſounded like a ſet of priſoners in chains, from the rattling it made when going along.

The young ſquire to give proof of his exalted notions of life, mounted the box; ordering the coachman to get up behind with the footman; but the poor ſquire, having more alacrity than judgment in driving, ſuddenly whipping up the ambling and trotting beaſts, took too ſhort a turn, and unfortunately overſet the vehicle; upon which Miſs roar'd out, odd roty what a plague buſineſs had you to pretend to drive, what does father keep Jonas for? Pox on your fine airs, you have broke every bone in my ſkin.

The corpulent knight, who ſuffered a few bruiſes, was equally enrag'd; and having crawled out of the leathern conveniency, ſat down at an ale-houſe door, to ſave charges; while Miſs, who had received no other hurt than the ſurprize, was greatly inſtrumental in helping

ing up the chariot; which when ſhe had accompliſhed, Sir Boiſterous and ſhe got in, and Jonas was reinſtated; who with a creeping care, conducted them home in about an hour's time to their lodgings, which was not much above half a mile from the ball room.

The ſquire walked by the ſide of them, deeply engaged in a ſcolding match with his ſiſter; which laſted till they parted to go to bed.

The Knight with the help of ſome ſpruce-beer and Iriſh ſlate, was pretty well recovered next day; being rather in the main more frightened than hurt.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

A Deſcription of their Entertainment. Sir Boiſtrous *not a little abſurd at the Arrival of his Gueſts. The Squire meets with a Diſaſter. A drawn Battle between him and Miſs. Mr.* Dumont *receives a Letter from Mr.* Evelyn, *by which a Diſcovery is made.*

NEXT morning Miſs and her maid Cicely roſe before their uſual hour, to prepare for the expected gueſts; Jonas, and Jonathan, were equally employed in their ſpheres; after they had been buſied about a couple of hours, down comes the young ſquire; on the ſight of whom, Miſs reaſſumed her diſcourſe, beginning where ſhe left off the night before. After they had talked themſelves into an abſolute fighting-match, the ſquire with his darling companions, the hounds, ſet out; leaving Miſs in the height of her paſſion, which

was

frequently vented upon poor Cicely, having loſt the real object of it for that morning.

About half an hour after one, the company came. Upon hearing the coach ſtop, Sir Boiſtrous hobbled up to the gate, in order to conduct them in; but his fancy was ſo taken with the grand appearance of Mr. Dumont's equipage, he entirely forgot to do the civilities of his houſe, and left them to introduce themſelves.

Whilſt he ſtaid to admire the beautiful painting of Mr. Dumont's coach, and the extraordinary make of the ſix white Flanders mares that drew it: he told the coachman, he was afraid his maſter was an extravagant young gentleman, in beſtowing ſo much rich lace upon their liveries; which, in his opinion was ſufficient to dreſs out the ſuperior officers of a whole regiment. But upon hearing that Mr. Dumont's fortune was anſwerable to all that ſplendor, he was not a little pleas'd. And beginning to recollect that he had been guilty of an error, went puffing and

and blowing after the company; where he ran into a ſecond abſurdity, by keeping 'em all ſtanding near ten minutes, whilſt he was awkwardly apologizing for the commiſſion of the former. At laſt Sir John and Mr. Dumont made bold each to reach a chair for Miſs Evelyn and her mama, which put the Knight in mind of his inadvertency in omitting that piece of good-manners; which he excuſed by bidding 'em not mind him, but make themſelves as free as if they were at home: that for his part he never ſtood upon ceremonies, and hoped they would forgive him, for not being as *purlite* as they were; for in troth, ſaid he, I never was bred to't, nor my father before me: I know I'm a homeſpun old fellow, but, lookee d'ye ſee, you are all welcome, and that's as much as I can ſay.

His good-nature, notwithſtanding his ruſticity, engaged 'em not to laugh at him: the old gentleman fix'd his eyes upon Mrs. Evelyn, who was really a very fine woman, and but a little more than forty; he imagined her to be a widow, and preſently attacked

tacked her with an offer of marriage, and not waiting her anſwer, propos'd an alliance for his ſon and daughter with Miſs Evelyn and Mr. Dumont, aſſuring them, that was the motive of his engaging 'em that day to dinner. How, how, Sir Boiſtrous, ſaid Sir John, wou'd you marry your ſon to his ſiſter-in-law? Why not, ſaid the Knight? our forefathers married their Own fleſh and blood, this is not ſo near, or if it were, why may we not follow their examples? Becauſe, ſaid Sir John, thoſe laws have been for ages aboliſhed, and they had a reaſon for it at the beginning of the world, in order to propagate their ſpecies, and do honour to their Creator; but to cut off all fruitleſs expectation of an alliance with this lady, I muſt inform you ſhe has a huſband living, a gentleman of great worth in regard to his perſonal merits, and of ſo refined an underſtanding, that were ſhe to loſe him, I am apt to think ſhe would never permit any other to ſupply his place. You don't know, young gentleman, anſwered the Knight, I'cod if Madam were ſingle again I'd ſtrike up briſkly to her, and who

who knows what we might do together?

Mrs. Evelyn desir'd the old gentleman to drop the discourse, as 'twas quite unpleasing; assuring him, that a supposition of Mr. Evelyn's death, even in raillery, was a theme she never suffer'd in her hearing, much less to join in it. Well, well, Madam, said Sir Boisterous, no harm done, I hope; and since we can't make a match, I hope you won't take it amiss if I propose joining the young ones together. After dinner, Sir Boistrous, answered Sir John. Besides, said he, you country gentlemen, I know, seldom love to make bargains upon empty stomachs, so we'll e'en defer the proposition till the afternoon: Aye, aye, with all my heart, Sir, says the Knight; and see our mouths are stopp'd, for dinner is now coming cross the hall.

Jonathan led the van, with a buttock of beef of a most enormous size, that the dish appeared to walk in of itself, discovering no part of the man but his legs, till he had set it on the table. Jonas, whose effluvia's of the stable were

in

infupportable, followed next, with a large diſh in each hand, laden with carrots in the one, and cabbage in the other. Mrs. Cicely next made her appearance, with a roaſted leg of veal; and Miſs brought up the rear with a great ham of her own curing, which ſerved her for a topick during their meal; which ſeem'd rather calculated for the coming ſtomachs of ſo many plowmen at a harveſt-home, than for the entertainment of people of diſtinction and faſhion.

Miſs, with her accuſtomed elegance, deſir'd every one to help themſelves, for in troth ſhe was ſo whot ſhe cou'd not cut up the meyt, not ſhe; ſo e'en help your ſelves good folks, ſays ſhe, then all your friends will love you. Mr. Dumont wou'd have helped Miſs, but ſhe choſe to ſtay till they had all done, and ſignified to the company ſhe'd pick a bit by and by with Ciſs i'the kitchen. Then every now and then wiped her face with a greaſy napkin, bitterly complaining of her heat and fatigue; but then, ſays ſhe, it muſt be ſo if one would have things a little better than ordinary, for I fack there's no truſting to ſervants.

After

After the removal of the firſt courſe, a prepoſterous hot butter'd apple-pye, and a thundering bak'd plumb pudding, attended by a huge Cheſhire cheeſe concluded the eatable part of the entertainment; and Jonathan ſoon after introduced a boiling bowl which contained ſix quarts of rum punch, to cloſe this noble treat; the ſcent of which, 'tis ſuppoſed, drew the young Squire home, who, with his two dogs, meeting the ſervant at the parlour door with the buttock of beef, had it again replac'd on the table, which diſorder'd the whole œconomy of it, and without ſitting down, decently reach'd acroſs the ladies to cut a ſlice of about four pounds weight, which he laid upon a monſtrous ſlice of bread of the thickneſs of a large brick-bat; after having waſh'd it down with near two quarts of ſtrong beer, he began clapping his ſides, which ſet Ringwood and Jowler upon full cry; then bleſs'd his ſtars that he ſhould be able to hold out till ſupper. And now, ſaid he, puffing and blowing, I have time to aſk you how you all do? Then, by way of being extreme comical, told 'em he knew

knew he ſhould come in with 'em for all they ſet out before him; 'twas not his cuſtom to ſtay till the courſe was over. I'cod I have a noſe as keen as a grey-hound, I knew I ſhould come in by hedge or by ditch.

The Knight and Squire thundered out a barbarous loud laugh at the concluſion of this witticiſm, telling the company, that Joceline was the cuteſt dog in all Devonſhire: Lord, to hear the witty things that rogue comes out with at club! There's Sir Arthur Addlepate, Mr. Francis Fulſome, Sir Frederick Fatty, and Sir Simon Stupid, are never at reſt without him; they'll ſit and ſmoak, and drink, and ſing for a week together, without ever ſeeing their beds; and drive ſuch a randy they make the whole pariſh ring again; I'cod, 'tis a chip of the old block; time was when I could have done as much, but 'tis over with me now.

The company were entertained 'till tea-time, with the noble exploits and merry conceits of Maſter Joceline; when they were happily reliev'd by Jonathan's bringing in the tea equipage, whoſe careful

careful countenance in the execution of that office, conſiderably added to the drollery of his figure: Mr. Jonathan wore his own black ſhining hair, cut quite round his head and face, in the form and exactitude of a bowl-diſh; a full black eye, with a meagre face, which beſpoke him to have been from his youth the ſon of hard labour and induſtry; when he had diſcharged himſelf from this troubleſome burden of care and china, which he had never been loaded with before, he quitted the room with the utmoſt expedition; and at the door met the landlady, who ſtood trembling there with terrible apprehenſions of receiving back ſome ſlaughter'd cups; but Jonathan, who had counted his ſteps from the time he took it in hand, eaſed her of thoſe fears: But, *alas! who can controul their fate!* Miſs Blunder was ſo unhappy in the diſpoſition of the cups and ſaucers, that in planting, or rather plumping them one into the other, ſhe ſoon demoliſhed four or five of 'em.

When Jonathan carried in the maſſacred ware to the good woman of the houſe,

houſe, ſhe wrung her hands and wept bitterly for the misfortune, proteſting that the ſett coſt her eight guineas, and were no where to be match'd.

The poor ſoul brought in a freſh parcel, and without any regard to Miſs Blunder, apply'd herſelf to Miſs Evelyn, humbly intreating her to do the honours of the tea-table, as ſhe was well aſſured from her appearance ſhe perfectly underſtood it. Miſs Evelyn complied with her requeſt, in pity to the young lady, as well as in compaſſion to the landlady, whom ſhe apprehended might poſſibly meet with a ſecond vexation, had MiſsBlunder proceeded in the office; but Miſs gladly reſigned it, and only undertook the attendance on the tea-kettle; but even in that ſhe was unfortunate, for as ſhe was haſtily going to reach it her foot ſlipp'd, and overſet that and the lamp, which unluckily fell on her brother's legs, and both burned and ſcalded him to a violent degree. This put the whole company in terrible confuſion, and the Squire bellow'd ſo loud the neighbours began to aſſemble about the door, being apprehenſive murder

had been committed; but when they were told of the accident, and by what means it happen'd, they diſperſed themſelves, laughing at the aukward young lady, whoſe oddity they had been acquainted with before.

Mrs. Evelyn and her daughter kindly employed themſelves in adminiſtring remedies to the poor Squire, whoſe ſufferings were very great, as was his rage on the account. Mrs. Evelyn aſking for a bottle of oil, Miſs brought it, and tho' the young gentleman had loſt at that time the uſe of his legs, he had not that of his hands, but whipping up his courſing ſtaff that ſtood at his elbow, he knock'd his ſiſter down flat on the floor, who riſing up was going to return the blow, had not Sir John and Mr. Dumont interpoſed; however, it was impoſſible for 'em to ſtop their tongues, the obliging epithets of dog and bitch were toſſed from one to t'other like a ſhuttlecock, and menaces of ſevereſt revenge on poor Miſs, as ſoon as ever the Squire was able to crawl: don't tell me, ſays Miſs, I am but even with you for trundling feyther

and

and I out of the chariot: the Squire forgetting the reſpect and tenderneſs due to a parent, bawls out, Ah, damn you, I wiſh it had broke both your necks: the incenſed Knight upon this came in for his ſhare of the reckoning, and rewarded the Squire with a barbarous blow with his oaken plant over his head, vowing he'd cut off the intail of the eſtate, and make Urſy ſole heir; to which the youth replied, rot him, but he'd poiſon her if he did.

Mrs. Evelyn advis'd Sir Boiſtrous to excuſe his ſon's paſſion, as ſhe was ſenſible he underwent an infinite deal of pain; and that to prevent a fever, which might very poſſibly enſue, he ſhou'd be put to bed: this was accordingly done; and the company took leave, with an earneſt requeſt to Sir Boiſtrous as ſoon as Mr. Joceſline was able to come abroad to have their viſit returned, which he faithfully promiſed, and very ſoon after performed.

The ladies and gentlemen paſs'd their evening together, ſometimes laughing at, but oftener pitying the unfortunate diſpoſitions of theſe three melancholy

objects, for ſuch they deem'd 'em; and moſt eſpecially ſo, as their affluent fortune was the unhappy means of power to make 'em expoſe their follies, and render themſelves more conſpicuouſly ridiculous to the world: truly, ſaid Miſs Evelyn, very innocently, I think 'twas very unlucky for Sir Boiſtrous to be born to ſuch an eſtate; upon which the reſt ſmiled, which ſhe perceiving, perſiſted in her argument, alledging, that there was two good plowmen loſt in the father and ſon, and a ſturdy dairy maid in the daughter. They could not but allow her argument to be juſt, as what now appears groſsly abſurd in their behaviour, behind a plow, or in a cheeſe-room, would have been received as the pure reſult of natural ſimplicity: well poor ſouls, ſaid ſhe, I pity 'em, and wiſh they were wiſer, or had no eſtate.

Here they were interrupted by the poſt ſtopping at the gate, with a letter from Mr. Evelyn to Mr. Dumont, the contents of which he directly communicated to the company:

Dear

Dear Sir,

BY my lord's order I inform you, that the night before laſt, between the hours of twelve and one, the houſe was beſet and broke open by a numerous gang of thieves, one of which was directly taken, and has ſince confeſſed their deſign was to have murder'd the whole family, and plunder the houſe. This ſcheme was happily prevented by the villains miſtaking my room for my Lord's, who had they broke in upon him, as he is in his hands diſabled by the gout, muſt have inevitably fallen a ſacrifice to their cruelty; bnt Heaven be praiſed for its peculiar care of ſo valuable and ineſtimable a bleſſing to us all. Nor can we ever ſufficiently adore the glorious hand of Providence for its kind preſervation of him.

Upon hearing a buſtle under my window, which you know Sir, looks into the garden; I liſtned, and preſently heard a ladder placed under it; being then fu'ly convinced there muſt be ſome villainous deſign on foot, I crept ſoftly out of bed,

and being favour'd by the moon, reach'd down a pair of piſtols, which were loaded with a brace of balls in each; while the raſcal was aſcending the ladder, I had time to conceal myſelf on the oppoſite ſide of the bed, behind the curtain; and as the villain approach'd, with what they call a ſniggner-ſey, in order to cut my throat, I took the opportunity, e're he could be aware, to ſhoot him, but it proved not to be mortal, the balls only breaking the main bone of his right arm, which was to have perpetrated the horrid murder.

The report of the piſtol alarm'd the ſervants, who were in an inſtant aſſembled together, which put the reſt of the gang to the rout, and away they flew, leaving a bundle of cords, in their hurry, at the foot of the ladder.

When the ſervants had got poſſeſſion of the fellow, I ran to my lord to acquaint him with what had happen'd, who heartily thank'd heaven for our deliverance, and order'd a ſurgeon to be ſent for, that the villain might be preſerved for the hands of juſtice; for fear of diſordering

dering the bone which was ſet but yeſterday, he was ſecured in one of the rooms over the ſtable, and a guard of about fifty of the poor people in the pariſh who ſet up every night with fire-arms, to prevent an inſurrection from his companions, of which he owns there are near twenty in the gang. The ſurgeon who ſet his arm knew him, and diſcover'd to us his being the inhumane uncle of our dear friend Jennings; that having ſpent the eſtate he feloniouſly deprived him of; he has ſince taken to robbery for ſupport. He conceives young Jennings to be dead, in which I did not undeceive him, that he might not ſhock the generous youth by an application to him in caſe of danger, which, notwithſtanding the injuries he has done him, I doubt not his aſſurance would prompt him to.

His lordſhip rejoices greatly at your not being preſent at this adventure, and that my wife and Charlotte were alſo abſent. Our bleſſings and beſt affections wait on all, with his lordſhip's compli-

ments to Lord Worthland and Sir John, which concludes me,

Dear Sir,

Your moſt Obedient Servant, and

Affectionate Friend,

CHARLES EVELYN.

P. S. As the fellow's bone is not ſplinter'd, the ſurgeon makes no doubt of reſtoring him to the perfect uſe of his arm again, which, but that the motive of our care is to bring him to condign puniſhment, would ſcarce be worth while, for he ſeems too harden'd a villain ever to repent.

As ſoon as Mr. Dumont had read the letter, he order'd poſt horſes directly, for himſelf and one ſervant only, beſide the poſt-boy; as ſoon as he had equip'd himſelf for his journey, he ſet out, reſolving

ſolving not to ſleep till he ſaw his grand-papa, leaving the ladies under the care and protection of Sir John Generous till his return, which office his honour was not a little pleaſed with and proud of, to be the guardian of all he held moſt dear.

Mrs. Evelyn and her daughter would fain have order'd the coach, and have gone with Mr. Dumont, but he would not by any means permit them, till they could be at home in ſafety. The ſpur of his duty and affection ſoon brought him to Iver, where he arrived about four in the morning, very much fatigued, as may be reaſonably ſuppoſed, the journey conſiſting of full ſeventy miles, nor would he give himſelf time to take any proper refreſhment, unleſs two or three times a glaſs of wine during the whole progreſs of it.

CHAP. IX.

Mr. Dumont *arrives at* Iver. *By Accident another of the Gang is taken, by which Means the reſt are found. Young* Boiſtrous *and his Siſter make a Diſcovery at* Dumont's *to the Father.*

WHEN Mr. Dumont got to his grand-papa's he ſaw ſeveral men patroling round the houſe, well arm'd, among which were ſome of the Count's own ſervants, who gently let him into the houſe for fear of diſturbing his lordſhip, who had been very much indiſpoſed, from the ſurprize, as well as from the afflicting pains of the gout. Mr. Dumont went directly to Mr. Evelyn's bedchamber, who was overjoy'd to ſee him, and highly applauded him for his filial tenderneſs and reſpect in haſtening to the Count; he roſe, and with much difficulty, perſwaded Mr. Dumont to go to bed till his lordſhip was ſtirring,

ſtirring, then went to the ſervants, and order'd ſome wine to be mull'd, which threw him into a gentle repoſe till about ten o'clock; by that time he was pretty tolerably refreſh'd, then got up and went to pay his duty to his grand-papa who was highly pleaſed at the ſight of him; but aſked him why he would run the hazard of the night to travel. The worſt misfortune I could poſſibly have met with on the road, my Lord, could not be half ſo terrible as the agonizing pains my heart ſuſtain'd, when I heard your life was in ſuch imminent danger; nor would I, to have gain'd the empire of the world, have been abſent; from the moment I heard the news, my impatient duty and tendereſt affection, left no room for thought of any misfortune, but thoſe you were liable to from the hands of theſe profligate villains: and, now I am here, I am reſolved to have them purſued throughout the globe, but I'll bring them to juſtice. You may ſpare yourſelf that trouble child, ſaid the Count, for there is a hue and cry after them already, there are ſuch numbers in puſuit of them it is impoſſible but they muſt be taken. I

underſtand, ſaid Dumont, your lordſhip has Jennings's uncle in cuſtody; why do you encumber yourſelf with him here, let him be moved to jail? The Count told him the ſurgeon had ſtrictly forbid it till the bone was knit; for that moving him would, very likely, throw him into a fever, which might carry him off; and he was diſempower'd from doing them any hurt, not only from a broken arm, but a ſtrong guard that was ſet over him of ſix ſturdy fellows, who attended him night and day.

This ſatisfied Mr. Dumont, who waited with much impatience for his amendment, in order to get rid of him; Mr. Evelyn propoſed ſending for the ladies from Tunbridge, which neither the Count or his grandſon would give into, judging it highly improper to alarm them by fears and dangers they might ſo eaſily avoid.

As villainy is ever watchful for its own undoing, ſo it proved with this gang, who had ſecreted themſelves in a lone empty houſe, upon Iver Heath, taking it by turns to go out and ſteal fowls, or whatever elſe they could find for ſupport, not daring to endeavour to make

make off till the ſearch begun to be a little cool. One of them going out in queſt of prey, rambled out about a mile and a half from their covert, and ſpied a waggon which he knew by the people who were with it to be loaded with ſmuggled goods; he immediately ran and made information of it, and in a ſhort time, the waggon was overtaken by ſeveral men on horſeback, who ſeized it, and the perſons concerned with it.

It happened there was an old man, who being tired with travelling, got a caſt in the waggon, to eaſe his aged legs for a few miles, who, when the waggon was ſeized, was obliged to get out, and, to his great ſurprize, ſaw his own ſon, which was this very villain whom he was in purſuit of for the murder of his poor old mother, and intended to have done the ſame execution on the father, had he been in the way; but after having cut the good woman's throat from ear to ear, he had but juſt time enough to make off with ſeventy guineas, which was all the poor ſouls were worth in the world. The old man reſolving if poſſible to find him out, ſold off his goods, and had been two

years

years in fruitleſs ſearch of him, till that accident occaſion'd their meeting; the paricide was immediately ſeized, and his villainous character was a means of eſcape for the poor ſmugglers that time, who taking that advantage urged their innocence; and one of them who kept a ſhop in London acknowledged the goods to be his, and all fairly purchaſed; the officers who had made the ſeizure, not being over wiſe, and a good deal ſurpriz'd at the barbariſm of the informer, were eaſily talked out of their ſenſes, and believed all the ſhopkeeper ſaid in his defence. The old man was determined to make an example of his ſon, who as he had diveſted himſelf of the filial ties of nature and affection to the mother; the father thought the world could not reflect on him if he alſo laid aſide the father in ſo deplorable a circumſtance, to become the juſtifiable proſecutor. Accordingly they went before a magiſtrate, which very gentleman was ſent for to the Count's to receive the confeſſion of old Jennings, he not being able to be carried to his houſe at that time. When the villain found that the fact appear'd plain againſt him,

him, and that the father had other evidences ready, on a proper ſummons, to corroborate what he had depoſed; the monſter was determined not to die alone; and directly impeach'd the reſt of his accomplices, part of whom he ſaid were his ſeducers to the perpetration of the horrid act. By his direction a ſtrong party was detached to ſtorm their caſtle and take them all priſoners; which news ſoon reach'd the Count's ear who was greatly overjoy'd to hear it. But when Jennings was informed of it, he notwithſtanding his misfortune, raved and ſtormed like a madman, ſuppoſing his date of life being almoſt at a period; but the generous Count in reſpect to his nephew, made great intereſt to have him tranſported for life; he would have gain'd him a pardon, but his crimes were ſo heinous, that tranſportation was the utmoſt mercy he could obtain. The gang being all ſent to Newgate, many witneſſes appear'd againſt them, and they were tried and condemned the ſeſſions following. The wicked wretch who murdered his mother, was after his execution here, ſent down to be hung in chains where the fact

fact was committed. The humane Count, whoſe liberal heart and hand were ever ready to ſuccour and comfort the diſtreſſed, ſent the poor old father a hundred pounds to be put out to uſe for his ſupport, during the few remaining melancholy years he had to live. And that it might be laid out to the beſt advantage, Mr. Evelyn purchas'd for him an annuity for life, which brought him in a better revenue than he would have had from the common intereſt of Great Britain.

Mr. Dumont went ſoon after this affair, back again to Tunbridge; not forgetting before he went, to mention Sir John's paſſion to his Grandpappa and Mr. Evelyn; both whom, were greatly pleas'd with the overture: and determined, when Miſs came to town, to uſe their utmoſt endeavours to bring the matter to bear.

Mr. Dumont at his return having told Sir John his ſucceſs with the Count and her Papa; encouraged him to make a declaration of his affection to the young lady. But ſhe appeared very cold, and upon being acquainted with his paſſion,

grew

grew ſhy of converſing with him, which gave her lover infinite pain.

However, he hoped that time might bring her to a more favourable thought of him, and greatly depended on the aſſiſtance of his friend Dumont in the affa r, who was perfectly aſſiduous in his cauſe.

Sir Boiſtrous Blunder having heard that Mr. Dumont was returned, ſent him word of his intention to wait on him next day; (which proved a very wet one) Miſs arrived in the chariot, with her papa, in an old faſhioned long riding-hood, with the head drawn over her face, as if ſhe had been chief mourner at a pariſh funeral; and that (according to her phraſe) ſhe might not whot her red morocco ſhoes, which were garniſhed with a yellow ſilk lace, to repreſent a gold one; ſhe ſtepped into her pattens, with which ſhe moſt cruelly demoliſhed a very fine walk that led into the houſe where Mr. Dumont lodged; by moſt barbarouſly indenting it with the rings, and throwing up the gravel before and behind ſo vehemently, 'twas no ſmall danger to the eyes of the company, who

who waited on her in, to walk near her.

When ſhe had got to the parlour-door, ſhe whipped off her pattens; in which, ſhe had thro' the moiſture of the ground made a large collection; which ſhe civilly diſcharged, by thumping 'em againſt the wainſcoat in the entry; and to compleat her elegance, ſet 'em down by the parlour-door. The reaſon that ſhe gave for ſo doing was, her having loſt a pair but the week before at a viſit; but, ſhe ſuppoſed one of the maids of the houſe had ſtole 'em, an now the ſteed's ſtole, ecod! I'll lock the ſtable door; ſafe bind, ſafe find. After ſhe had taken this care, ſhe diſrob'd herſelf of her wet cloak; which ſhe was going to hang upon a chair before the fire to dry; but Mr. Dumont, who promiſed to be bound for its appearance, ordered one of the footmen to take it into the hall, till the lady call'd for it.

The Knight who was willing to guard againſt the chilly quality of the rain, had provided himſelf with a pipe; which he had pretty near ſmoaked out in the chariot; and being ſeated in the parlour, de-

decently daſhed it to pieces againſt the back of a chair, that ſtood near him; they had not been there long, before the young ſquire came hollowing along with Ringwood and Jowler; who ſeemed to endeavour who ſhould out do the other in noiſe; which being obſerved by Sir John, he gave it in favour of the ſquire, as being the loudeſt proficient in this dogmatical concert.

Lord Worthland, who was one of the Knights of the Bath, unexpectedly dropt in, as he came from courſing; and was detained by Mr. Dumont to dinner, that he might partake of the felicity they promiſed themſelves, from the company of the other three viſitants. As my Lord was but plainly dreſſed for the morning, Miſs conceived a very ſtrange notion of him; and after having gazed at him very attentively for about ten minutes, ſhe at laſt fixed her hands on each ſide, and burſt into ſuch a fit of laughing, the company began to think ſhe muſt neceſſarily expire. Her father who was pleaſed to ſee his daughter ſo highly delighted; joined as heartily in the laugh, without knowing at what.

At

At laſt growing impatient to be informed where the joke lay; prithee! Urſy, ſaid he, let's know what 'tis we have been laughing at all this while? why, ſays ſhe, feyther at that mon, (pointing to Lord Worthland) to ſee how like a fewl he wears the collar; not like Tom Cutwell, and the reſt of the zow-gelders in our country; they put 'em round their necks, and ſo hang bobbing upon their breaſts; not craſs and athwart, as meaſter wears his. Oh! Madam, ſays Sir John, this young man is one of his majeſty's ſow-gelders, and wears his collar in that form, to diſtinguiſh him from the common ones; well, but then, ſays Miſs, what is that glaring thing by his ſide there, faſtned on's coat? (meaning the ſtar) oh! that, ſaid Sir John, is the badge of the pariſh he belongs to. Odd rot it! ſaid ſhe, the poor of our pariſh wear their badges on their arms; and what do you let ſiſh as he ſit in the room, and be a company keeper for you? Why poor fellow, ſays Sir John, he's good natur'd, and ſerves to make us laugh ſometimes. Aye, aye, ſays Sir Boiſtrous, do'nt let us diſturb the young

fel,

fellow, I love people that are merry, if they are but civil; beſides, Urſy, ſaid the Knight, (putting on a ſignificant countenance, that carried with it an air of rebuke) you muſt not deſpiſe people for being poor; come here, (ſaid he, to my Lord) ſit down by me young fellow, and don't mind that pert jade, ſhe has no more manners, than if ſhe had been bred in a pig-ſtie; which indeed was very near the caſe, for that and the diary, were the only academies Miſs was ever trained up in; of which, the young lady's deportment was a ſufficient teſtimonial.

My Lord, to carry on the Joke, aſſumed an awkward baſhfulneſs, bowing and ſcraping in a thankful manner, for the notice Sir Boiſtrous took of him; who promiſed him the buſineſs of the whole pariſh, if ever he came his way.

His Lordſhip's ſucceſs with Sir Boiſtrous occaſioned a violent laugh, which was ſuddenly ſunk into a profound ſilence and reſpect, on the approach of Miſs Evelyn; whoſe lovely form naturally and unavoidably excited it.

She was dreſſed in a white paduaſoy robe de chambre, richly flowered with ſilver, with every other part of her dreſs ſuitable; but notwithſtanding that, the nobleneſs of her preſence, and the native ſweetneſs of looks, needed no ornaments to ſet them off; as ſhe was allowed without any exception, to be one of the moſt compleat and exquiſite beauties that ever warmed the heart of a deſpairing, or deſiring lover.

She went to Miſs Blunder to pay her compliments, who with a ſingle leg'd curtiſy, ſtaggering like a drunken fellow, made her an awkward return. At laſt perceiving Miſs Evelyn's robe to hang looſe, and flowing behind; bawls out in a ſurprize, laud! laud! miſtreſs, all the plites of your gawnd be undone; an you'll come here, I'll tack 'em dawn for you; 'tis pity you ſhould go ſo, it looks quite trapiſh.

Miſs Evelyn thanked her for her offer; but told her there was no neceſſity, for that was the faſhion and form thoſe ſorts of gowns were made in. Odd rabbit the faſhion! if theſe be the fa-

faſhion, the devil ſhould wear it for Urſula! now praye, what may you call that flouncy garment? for I ſuppoſe it has ſome fine fangled neam belonging to it. 'Tis a robe, or rather a long ſack, ſaid Miſs Evelyn, and is generally worn now by people of faſhion and diſtinction. Aye, ſo let them, anſwered the mawkin, give me a good tight gawnd, ſay I.

Here their diſcourſe ended, by Mr. Joceline's enquiry about dinner, who being informed it would be a full hour before it was ready, aſſured them his great guts were ready to eat up his ſittle ones, that they had cried cupboard ſome time, I'cod the hounds and I ſhall be famiſh'd; but howſomdever, ſays he, we'll be before-hand with you; and calling his two dear friends after him, he took a march into the kitchen, where he ſtar'd at the variety of diſhes that were preparing, and except the fiſh, veniſon, and fowl, he could not conceive what the cooks were conjuring about, as he was pleaſed to term it; declaring, he had never ſeen ſuch meſſes in all his born days before; but that he might

might be ſure to eat ſomething he had been uſed to, he cut himſelf a thick piece of bread round a large loaf, and ſlapp'd it into the dripping-pan, which when it had ſoak'd up about a pound and half of fat, he returned to the company with the ſop dripping all the way, greas'd up to his eyes: Miſs, who was as ſharp ſet as her brother, bounc'd from her chair and ſeiz'd one half of it, ſcalding her mouth for fear he ſhould ſnatch it back again. After they had maundered at each other and muſled up the ſop, the Squire whips up one of the nice pinch'd napkins that lay upon a plate, when, after having ſufficiently greas'd and towzell'd it about according to their politeneſs, threw it on the middle of the table. Mr. Dumont rung the bell for a ſervant to take it away, and place another in its ſtead: but Miſs Boiſtrous inſiſted upon having that, urging that waſhing was very dear in that place, and that there was no need to be ſo dainty, or ſo waſteful, that ſhe knew of. However, Mr. Dumont, in reſpect to the reſt of the company, had it taken away, for Miſs and her brother

ther had made it in ſuch a filthy condition it turn'd their ſtomachs; and the more ſo, as they had both unfortunately made uſe of it in the capacity of a pocket handkerchief.

Dinner being at laſt brought in, the old gentleman thought there wou'd be no end of the proceſſion of ſervants, there being ſeven, who brought in each a ſeperate diſh, and cover'd the table very elegantly in two minutes time: among thoſe in the firſt courſe, there was a fine ragou, ſome of which being offered to Miſs Urſy, ſhe could not be perſwaded to touch it, for that ſhe did not like the ſight of the rags and jags, it might poiſon her for what ſhe knew; but luckily for Miſs, there was a young turkey pout; many of which ſhe had rear'd in her time; ſo without ceremony, ſhe ſlit it down the middle, and clapped it on her plate; turning the other half to her father, whom ſhe knew to be very fond of it. In ſhort, not one of the three could be prevailed on to taſte of any thing, but what they were perfectly acquainted with. When a very large haunch of veniſon was ſet on the table,

the knight and his two babes fairly picked the bone without any other perſon partaking of it.

After a very elegant dinner conſiſting of one and twenty diſhes, ſeven at a courſe, the knight proteſted had it not been for the fat haunch he ſhould have roſe hungry; and that for his part a gammon of bacon, or a round of beef was to him preferable to all the fine kickſhaws that France or England could produce. Inſtead of the variety of wines, of which there was abundance, he choſe old Engliſh beer, of which he and the ſquire and Miſs drank ſo plentifully, they were all three tolerably gay by that time dinner was ended.

When all was over and the ſervants withdrawn, Sir Boiſtrous began to propoſe the matches he intended for his ſon and daughter with Mr. Dumont and Miſs Evelyn, addreſſing himſelf to her mama, who in as civil a manner as ſhe poſſibly could, at once gave him a poſitive denial, aſſuring him in a tender manner, that notwithſtanding his having a good eſtate, there was ſuch a diſproportion in their underſtandings, it would be impoſſible

for

for them ever to be happy together; that ſhe thought ſome wealthy farmer's ſon and daughter would be more ſuitable matches for the ſquire and Miſs, therefore beg'd him never more to make any overtures of that kind, as ſhe was well aſſured it would be a fruitleſs attempt. The knight grew a little teſty at this refuſal, and urged the family's being a very Ancient one, that for many generations had been baronets, and that he had ten thouſand pounds over and above his eſtate in ready caſh in a ſly corner, that he would toſs into the bargain at his death, in caſe Miſs Evelyn behaved well to him. But alaſs all arguments were vain, and Mrs. Evelyn was forced to put an end to his ſolicitations by an abſolute and peremptory denial.

The young ſquire ended their diſpute, by telling him that all he had been talking about to Madam was of no conſequence at all, and that it would be impoſſible to keep it much longer a ſecret, ſo it might as well come out then as at another time; that in plain terms he had been privately married to Cicely the maid, for upwards of ſix months, four

of which he believed ſhe was gone with child. The enraged knight flew from his ſeat, and ſnatching Mr. Dumont's ſword that ſtood in the window, would have run him thro' the body had not the gentlemen held him, while the ſquire ran out of the room, who returning in about five minutes, holding the door and popping his head in, hearing his father ſwear, hollows out "Why what ails "the old fool to keep ſuch a rendy; "mahap I han't told you all neither, for at "the ſame time I married Ciſs, our Urſy "married Jonas the coachman, and I "believe ſhe and Ciſs will pig toge-"gether". When the old gentleman heard this news, Miſs was forced to fly, and the poor old man fairly fell into a convulſion fit, occaſion'd by the violence of anger, and the prevention of his revenge on the objects of his fury.

Mr. Dumont follow'd the ſquire and his ſiſter into the ſummer houſe, where they had taken ſhelter from the terrible ſtorm they had perceived was riſing in the offended father; he knew to pretend to expatiate on the raſhneſs and folly of their new alliances was but loſs of time

time on two ſuch impenetrable mortals; the utmoſt he could do towards making up this unlucky breach in the family, was to perſwade the two young ones home, with a promiſe to keep out of the old gentleman's ſight leſt he ſhould relapſe into a ſecond rage, which he fear'd would be difficult to quell; that he would uſe his utmoſt power to mollify his anger, and endeavour at a reconciliation. They promiſed to be guided by him, took leave and went home, where they were no ſooner arrived but they related the whole matter to their ſpouſes.

Jonas and Ciſs were own brother and ſiſter; Cicely was a pretty neat girl, and bleſs'd with the ſeeds of a little more common ſenſe than for the generality thoſe country wenches are endow'd with; from the reſult of which, ſince her marriage was no longer a ſecret, ſhe reſolved to improve by art thoſe few advantages which nature had beſtowed on her; and with the firſt opportunity after matters were made up, ſhe put herſelf under the care of the beſt maſters of the place, among which was a Frenchman, who in about three years time made a very great proficiency

in Mrs. Cicely; nor was the dancing-maſter wanting in his art to new model her, by which means ſhe in the end turn'd out a genteel ſenſible young creature; ſhe had ſuch an aſcendant over her ſpouſe (who was extremely fond of her) that by her example and advice, ſhe made conſiderable alterations in him in a few years; and though ſhe could not, from his want of a better underſtanding, make him a Fine gentleman, yet he was ſo far influenced by the ſtrength of his affection for her, that it empower'd her to civilize the brute, and render him by many degrees, a more tolerable creature than he might poſſibly have been, had he fallen into any other hand. Cicely's brother who was a handſome freſh colour'd youth, was no leſs fond of his improvement than his ſiſter, cloſely applied himſelf to ſtudy in order to cultivate his mind, and make himſelf a companion for the beſt gentlemen in the county, which indeed he never attempted, till by education he had ſo far qualified himſelf, as not to run the hazard of being laughed at.

Mrs.

Mrs. Evelyn and Mr. Dumont kept Sir Boiſtrous all that night, and paſſed the moſt part of it by his bedſide, entreating him to reconcile this matter to himſelf, and to conſider that as they had wedded where they loved, they ſtood a better chance of being happy, then if they married with people of more exalted ſenſe and greater knowledge of the world; who in all probability might, though they admired their fortunes, deſpiſe their perſons for want of better intellects; to be ſhort, they gain'd their point, and by dint of plain and forcible argument, convinced the knight that it was better for his own ſake as well as theirs freely to forgive them, which he did, and ſuffer'd Mr. Dumont to ſend for them to his lodgings.

Miſs Evelyn conceiving that the ſight of his ſon in law's appearance in a livery, muſt ſhock the good natured old gentleman, prevailed on Mr. Dumont to ſend a ſuit of his plain cloaths for Jonas to appear in, and one of her morning dreſſes for the ſquire's lady; when they were thus equip'd they came and paid their duty to the father, whoſe ſtreaming eyes

confeſſed a natural tenderneſs for them, that needs no other eloquence to deſcribe. It is true Jonas married for intereſt, and Miſs for love, both which were motives ſufficient to induce her huſband's good nature and humanity to uſe her tenderly.

The good old knight ſettled them in an eſtate of his, conſiſting of five hundred a year; which his ſon in law who underſtood huſbandry extreamly well, took care to improve it till he made it worth three hundred more per annum before the old gentleman died. Mr. Joceline and his ſpouſe lived with his father, who at his deceaſe divided his eſtate equally between his ſon and daughter, and the ten thouſand pound beforemention'd. Miſs Urſy's ſpouſe in proceſs of time, through his exceſſive good behaviour, was choſen knight of the ſhire; and that his wife ſhould not be ſhock'd at his ſiſter's taking place of her at publick aſſemblies, in reſpect to her birth, purchaſed a patent for a baronetſhip. Soon after Sir Joceline came to this title, Mr. Dumont was ſo pleaſed to ſee ſuch laudable ambition in Sir Jonas and his ſiſter, and the tranquility the whole family en-

enjoy'd in each other; he desired and continued an acquaintance with them till time and circumstances which we shall mention hereafter broke it off.

CHAP. X.

Mr. Dumont *returns to* Iver. *Mr.* Evelyn *goes to* London, *sets the World a fair Example. Some remarkable Occurrences arising from the Journey. A true Description of a Usurer.*

IN a few days after the reconciliation, Sir Boistrous went to his seat in Devonshire, and Mr. Dumont with the ladies, accompanied by Sir John Generous, set out for Iver. Sir John did not fail to put his friend in mind of becoming his advocate in his love suit; nor did he want the kind assistance of the Count and Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn; but Miss, though she

would not preſume abſolutely to refuſe, avoided all opportunities of being alone with her lover; and by a coldneſs and reſerve to him convinced the whole family of her averſion to the match. However the Count was reſolved to give his friend fair play for his life, which ſeemed greatly to depend upon his ſucceſs with this inexorable fair; he gave him an invitation to paſs the remaining part of the ſummer with them, that he might loſe no ground in the purſuit of his amour. Sir John's exceſſive fondneſs was everlaſtingly contriving ſome obliging means to recommend him to Miſs's favour, but in vain! The utmoſt he could ever gain, was one day the confeſſion of a friendly regard, aſſuring him he would not even preſerve that long, ſhould he perſiſt in endeavouring at any thing beyond it. Sir John thought himſelf bleſs'd in making that ſmall progreſs towards her heart, and with infinite joy communicated it to the Count and her father; who ſmiling told him he muſt have recourſe to patience; as he was obliged to go to London upon

urgent buſineſs; but that at his return he would himſelf undertake his cauſe; at the ſame time giving him aſſured hopes of ſucceſs. The fearful lover, though pleaſed with what Mr. Evelyn ſaid, had not courage ſufficient to believe there was the leaſt probability of ſucceeding; however he promiſed to remain as eaſy as poſſible, and continued hourly to find new ways to make life agreeable to the young lady.

Mr. Evelyn's deſign in going to London was to diſcharge the debts which occaſion'd his going abroad; as Providence had been bounteous in its diſpenſations towards him, he thought the only inſtance he could give of a grateful ſenſe of the Divine goodneſs, was to do juſtice to his fellow creatures, whom he doubted not had ſuffer'd many inconveniencies in being with-held from their rights, which his former indigence had for many years deprived them of. The Count though loth to loſe ſo much of his company, could not but applaud the piety of ſo laudable a reſolution, and not only conſented to his going, but

generouſly offer'd to give him any aſſiſtance he ſhould require in the compleating his affairs. Mr. Evelyn in a moſt reſpectful manner thank'd his lordſhip, but told him the honour and bleſſing of his friendſhip had empower'd him to make a perfect acquittance with intereſt to his creditors, and a thouſand pounds over and above what would ſerve to that end; that he thought himſelf equally obliged to his lordſhip for the offer as if he had accepted it, but that he ſhould eſteem it ſuch an avaricious intruſion on his friendly tenderneſs, which he never could forgive himſelf ſhould he be guilty of it.

I muſt inform the reader the worthy Count made Mr. Evelyn an offer of paying his debts on his firſt arrival into England, but as their acquaintance was then but of an early date, and Mr Evelyn's demands very conſiderable, on that account he choſe rather to deſerve in ſome degree ſo high an act of friendſhip, and give his noble patron leave to judge whether he might prove an object worthy of ſuch infinite regard; therefore declined it till fortune had put it in his power to effect the buſineſs himſelf without being

ſo

ſo troubleſome, as he deemed it, to a noble generous friend, and for no ſervice done to entitle him to a much leſs ſhare of his tender concern.

The Count's retirement was a ſufficient ſecurity for Mr. Evelyn's perſon, whom his creditors concluded to be dead, till he advertized himſelf in order to convene them to receive their ſeveral dues. In about two days after he got to London they all aſſembled at the King's Arms the corner of St. Paul's Church-Yard; upon looking over his liſt of their names, he miſſed his chief creditor, which was one Mr. Powel a great linen-draper, whom they informed him had been dead ſome years; that his ſon was living, but breaking in a ſhort time after his father's death, was then in confinement in the Marſhalſea, where he had been upwards of two years very miſerable, having no more than the groats allow'd him for his ſupport; and as a farther addition to the weight of his misfortunes he had a wife and four children (the Eldeſt of which was incapable of getting its living) and were frequently in want of bread. This ſhocking relation

gave

gave ſo violent an emotion to poor Mr. Evelyn's heart, he could not ſuppreſs the tears from falling down his manly cheeks; then ſtriking his breaſt with vehemence, accuſed himſelf as being, in part, an unhappy inſtrument of the family's deſtruction! A chuck-headed hoſier that had juſt received his dividend, and had more money than humanity, perceiving the tender impreſſion this melancholy tale had made on Mr. Evelyn, told him he wonder'd he ſhould expreſs ſo much concern for a ſtranger; that any perſon who was unacquainted with him, would imagine it to be his father by the agony he was in. No, Sir, replied the afflicted gentleman, I am not his father, but I have been undeſignedly his enemy in keeping him from a juſt demand, which had he been poſſeſſed of might have been the happy means to have prevented the dreadful ſcenes of wretchedneſs and ſorrow he at preſent is immerſed in; but ſleep ſhall never cloſe my eyes till I have made him the utmoſt reparation in my power. O lord, ſaid the hoſier! a trifle may do that, he's ſo abominably poor you may get off that debt with a wet finger; two or three

pieces

pieces will make the poor devils as happy as princes; fill their bellies and put a whole coat upon the poor fellow's back, for he is horrible ragged at preſent I can tell you.

Mr. Evelyn had not patience at the inhuman diſpoſition of this unchriſtian-like man, who could be ſo inſenſible of the misfortunes of his fellow-creature; but with infinite indignation and contempt of his cruelty and groveling mind, he ſtarted from his chair, wondring how it was poſſible ſuch wickedneſs ſhould infeſt the heart of man! Had my ſentiments, Sir, ſaid he, been concomitant with yours, you would never have received the trifling ſum of ten pounds I juſt now paid you with intereſt; and you muſt naturally and reaſonably have branded me with the juſt title of villain had I defrauded you, when I had it ſo amply in my power to do you juſtice; then how much more ſhould I deſerve that name ſhould I withold the ſum of near two hundred pounds from this unhappy man, who with his diſtreſſed family are encompaſſed with ſorrows, and expoſed to the pinching hand of bittereſt want. Nay, ſaid the hoſier

with

with ſome confuſion, I only ſpoke for your good, and to ſave your money. I ſhan't, ſaid Mr. Evelyn, pay you the compliment of thanking you for that regard, nor do I ever deſire to enrich myſelf at the expence of my humanity; and moſt eſpecially ſo when it is enforced by juſtice. As a proof of my deteſtation of any action that is meanly, mercenary, or ſordidly baſe, I ſhall beg the favour of you all to leave me now, and deſire your companies here to dinner to-morrow, that I may make the beſt advantage of time to fly to the immediate relief of this unhappy man.

The creditors (who were every one paid off) promiſed to meet him next day according to appointment, expreſſing many acknowledgments on Mr. Evelyn's goodneſs in reſtoring them their rights, when he had it ſo greatly in his power (as they all conjectured him to have been dead) to have deprived them of them.

This worthy gentleman's impatience to eaſe Mr. Powel's tortured mind hurried him to Southwark, where he ſtop'd at a cloaths ſhop and fitted himſelf with a compleat ſuit of fine broad cloth, entirely

tirely new; having enquired of the other tradeſman what height and ſize he was of, found by their deſcription he was much ſuch another made man as himſelf, Mr. Powel being an infant when Mr. Evelyn went abroad; having provided every thing from head to foot, to prevent Mr. Powel being ſhocked from the miſerable appearance he made, ſent a porter with the bundle and the following letter to the Marſhalſea.

To Mr. John Powel *in the* Marſhalſea.

SIR,

AS the ever careful hand of Providence is inceſſantly employ'd in the preſervation of mankind who truſts to its determination, and patiently endures the ſeverity of its inflicting power; I hope you will look upon this earneſt of its reward for all your ſufferings as an inſtance of its wondrous mercy. I arrogate no praiſe to myſelf in communicating this comfort to you, but think we are equally indebted to that Supremacy who has been graciouſly pleaſed to make me the happy

happy inſtrument of good to one, pining at once with diſtreſſes and deſpair. As ſoon as you are equip'd, pleaſe to diſpatch the bearer to let me know when it will be agreeable to you to permit me perſonally to give you more ſubſtantial proofs of my ſincere deſire to ſerve you. If you'll examine the right fob you will find a trifle which waits your acceptance,

From SIR,

Your Friend and Humble Servant,

CHARLES EVELYN.

Mr. Evelyn was ſo politely and tenderly concern'd for this unfortunate perſon, he would not ſuffer his own ſervant to carry this preſent and letter; becauſe he would not expoſe his miſeries to a ſtranger's eye, whom he knew muſt hereafter be better accquainted with him, and might poſſibly be idle enough to make his diſtreſs a publick topick, which his generous ſoul reſolved ſhould be concealed.

It

It is eaſy to conceive Mr. Powel's ſuperabundant joy and ſurprize at ſo kind and unexpected a relief; he received Mr. Evelyn's bounty with tears of joy, and ſoon equip'd himſelf to the no ſmall aſtoniſhment of the porter, from the extraordinary change in his perſon; which from the woeful, dejected, and even abject figure he made at his coming in, he took him for a dirty old fellow; but when he was ſhaved and dreſſed, found him an extream genteel agreeable young man; his dejected air was rather an advantage than otherwiſe, which intermixed with good natural parts beſpoke the pity of the beholder. When he was dreſs'd he ſat down and wrote to Mr. Evelyn, as the reader may ſee.

Worthy Sir,

IT is utterly impoſſible for me to expreſs the grateful ſentiments of my o'ercharged heart, which your unbounded goodneſs has unexpectedly lifted up once more to a ſenſe of joy, and till this happy hour it has been long a ſtranger to;

to; your tender charity and promiſed friendſhip has diſpelled the dreadful gloom of ſorrow, which has for more than two years paſt been my conſtant and ſad companion. Pardon me, Sir, for telling you I am impatient till I am bleſs'd with the ſight of my generous benefactor, and be aſſured the confinement of my perſon will never lay any reſtraint on the happy liberty my ſoul enjoys in the pleaſing power of offering up her daily thanks to Heaven for its unbounded mercy, and prayers for endleſs joys here and hereafter to be ſhower'd on you, for your wondrous worth and ſoft compaſſion on a wretch beſet with ills, and overwhelm'd with miſery. The five guineas you had placed in the fob I have ſent to the dear afflicted partner of my woes, in order to relieve her and her almoſt famiſh'd little ones; Their ſorrows have ever given me more real anguiſh than my own, and in particular my patient wife's diſtreſs, whoſe tenderneſs has ever bore her ſhare of the wretched and cruel ſtings of my adverſe fortune. That I may not protract the tranſport I muſt

muſt infallibly receive from the honour you intend me; I ſubſcribe with the utmoſt gratitude,

SIR,

Your moſt Obedient, Obliged,

and Devoted Servant,

JOHN POWEL.

Mr. Powel diſpatch'd the porter with his letter to Mr. Evelyn; and the maſter of the jail ſent a truſty friend to Mrs. Powel with the money and glad tidings of her huſband's better fortune; who poor woman was ſcarce able to ſupport the tide of joy that flow'd round her heart at the recital.

Mr. Evelyn came on the receipt of Mr. Powel's Epiſtle, who waited in the yard to receive him. At the ſight of this worthy gentleman, Mr. Powel endeavour'd to give utterance to his grateful joy; which rais'd ſo ſtrong a conflict in his breaſt he was entirely diveſted of the power of expreſſion, but by his looks, which

which were certain indications of the tumultuous tranſports of his ſoul. As ſoon as he had collected himſelf, and was able to teſtify in words how much he thought himſelf obliged by Mr. Evelyn's humanity, he did it in ſuch a manner, that convinced his benefactor his preſent and future regard to him were not, nor ever would be miſemployed.

Mr. Powel found relief from the grateful tribute of his tears, which affected Mr. Evelyn ſo tenderly, he made an equal retribution; and finding the other under confuſion, gave him time to overcome it, by opening to him the cauſe of his care and concern for him. I believe, Sir, ſaid he, the infancy of your days when I was acquainted with your father, and twenty years abſence have render'd it impoſſible for you to remember your having ever ſeen me, you being but five years of age when I left England. I have, ſaid Mr. Powel, Sir, but an imperfect knowledge of you, and can juſt remember that there was a gentleman of the name of Evelyn, who frequently did my father the honour of viſiting him, which I ſuppoſe, Sir, to be your worthy ſelf. The

ſame,

ſame, anſwered Mr. Evelyn, in the juvenile part of my life, I dealt very largely with your good father, till misfortunes fell thick upon me, from a conſiderable loſs I had in venturing the beſt part of what I was worth at ſea, which was confounded in one fatal hour, by a dreadful ſhipwreck.

Upon examination into my circumſtances, I had ſoon reaſon to believe I was not worth a ſhilling I could call my own; for as ſoon as I had embark'd my fortune, which I did in hopes of an improvement of it, I was reduced to live upon credit, till the return of the ſhip; but it pleaſed Heaven to order it otherwiſe, and all the tidings I ever gained, was a confirmation of my ruin; by this time I was conſiderably involved.

Among the number of thoſe who gave me credit, was your generous father; to whom I was indebted a hundred and ſeventy pounds, which now in right is yours. In ſhort, when the reſt of my creditors preſſed me hard, inſomuch that I was not able to appear abroad, meeting your father one Sunday unawares, I ſtrove to ſhun him; but his good nature purſued me with

a ſmile, begging me to ſtop; which I was then in good manners compelled to; and inſtead of the harſh threats I had received from others, he went into a tavern; and upon hearing the melancholy ſituation of my affairs, bid me never apprehend any danger from him; adding, that he could not eaſily forget the obligations he was pleaſed to think himſelf under to me, when I was in the poſſeſſion of an affluent fortune; having dealt with him for near two thouſand pounds at different times with ready money. Nor would he permit me to leave him, till he gave me a draught upon a merchant in the city for twenty guineas to ſupply my preſent neceſſities. I offered him a note or bond to be drawn up the next day, which he reſolutely refuſed; aſſuring me, he deſired no other ſecurity, than my word of honour, to repay it whenever it ſhould be in my power; or if otherwiſe, to accept on it as a gratuity, for the favours he had formerly received of me.

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In ſhort, my circumſtances grew worſe and worſe every day, without any proſpect of amendment; and I was forced contrary to my inclination with a trifling remainder of my wife's fortune, to ſet out for France, or to run the hazard of a jail in England.

In this retreat I met with a nobleman, with whom I have lived theſe twenty years; and in whoſe ſervice I ſtill remain. And have happily amaſſed a competence to ſatisfy all whom I was the leaſt indebted to; and have this very day to the laſt penny diſcharged.

Upon enquiry after your father, I was informed of his deceaſe, and your misfortunes; and think this the happieſt part of my life in having it in my power not only to give you relief, but pay the reſpect I owe to the memory of my worthy friend, in laying a foundation for the future happineſs of his ſon. Then taking out Bank notes to the amount of five hundred pounds, deſired Mr. Powel not to conſider the overplus as a gift, but as a debt due to him in reſpect of the tender friendſhip he met with from

his father, to prevent the calamities he must but for his bounty been expoſed to.

Mr. Powel was ſo charmed with Mr. Evelyn's nobleneſs of ſoul, that he for a little time ſat mute, and fixed in a pleaſing aſtoniſhment at his uncommon virtue. He begged he would excuſe him, ſaying all his mind ſuggeſted, as 'twas impoſſible to do juſtice to his merit: that tho' it required an abler tongue than his, to ſpeak his praiſe, he aſſured him, he was not wanting of a true and perfect ſenſe of his ineſtimable worth.

Mr. Evelyn ſent by Mr. Powel's direction, for the perſon who had put him in confinement, with an order to bring his lawyer directly; that Mr. Powel might be releaſed without delay.

The meſſenger made as quick diſpatch as poſſible, and brought the lawyer and plaintiff; the latter was an exact and proper figure, to repreſent Mr. Trapland in the comedy of Love for Love. His diminutive figure and care-worn aſpect, gave a perfect idea of his profeſſion; uſury ſat triumphant on his furrowed front, and his contracted brow ſtrongly deſcribed the ſtern impatience

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and malicious revenge on many a hapleſs perſon; whoſe neceſſity, oftener than inclination, expoſes them to the inſatiate cruelty, ariſing from the power thoſe wretches have over the unfortunate.

Notwithſtanding this avaricious mortal was going to receive all that was due to him, he diſcover'd ſuch a rancourous diſpoſition, and unwillingneſs to ſee his fellow creature diſburthen'd of his affliction, that he endeavoured to puzzle the cauſe, and detain the poor gentleman longer in that diſmal abode of miſery and grief; which Mr. Evelyn obſerving, reprimanded him ſeverely, and upon examining the account between them, found he had lent the principal upon ſuch exorbitant intereſt, it amounted to double the ſum of the debt; at laſt, after many diſputes, Mr. Evelyn obliged him to take no more than what was allowed by act of parliament; or ſtand the proceſs of a law ſuit, as an extortioner; by which means, he was not only liable to a puniſhment for the crime, but in danger of loſing the whole money. With many bitter invectives on his part, he was forced

to a compliance, and Mr. Powel happily delivered from his power.

Mr. Evelyn took his new acquaintance to the tavern, and would have ſent for Mrs. Powel, but her huſband excuſed her appearance; telling his friend, that ſhe was ſo terribly reduced, by having parted with all that was valuable for their ſupport, ſhe was now become the cruel ſcorn and contempt even of thoſe who once thought themſelves bleſt in her acquaintance; that as ſoon as ſhe was in a condition to pay her reſpects, (which he promiſed ſhould be the next day) ſhe ſhould not fail to join with him in her grateful acknowledgements. As to acknowledgements, replied Mr. Evelyn, there are none due; what I have done this day, was but a duty incumbent on myſelf, and to myſelf; and think, that I am the only obliged perſon from the beginning to the end of this affair; as heaven has graciouſly and providentially empow'red me to reſtore to every one, what was but their legal claim.

However, Sir, continued he, ſince 'tis inconvenient for Mrs. Powel to

come to you, 'twill be cruelty longer to detain you from her. Giving him a direction to his lodgings in Southampton ſtreet, Covent Garden, to come to him at nine next morning, they parted, and Mr. Powel took coach, ordering the man to ſet him down in Bloomſbury-ſquare. His wife's lodgings being in one of the narrow ſtreets in Saint Giles's; and then making a genteel appearance, did not care the fellow ſhould be witneſs of the diſmal place he was going to.

Mrs. Powel on hearing his voice, coming down with eager joy to meet and bid him wellcome, was ſo overcome with tranſport at ſeeing him, ſhe fainted in his arms; and was no ſooner brought out of one fit, then it was ſucceeded by another, which continued for near half an hour. But by the aſſiſtance of a good natur'd poor woman that lodged there, they at laſt brought her to herſelf.

The landlady, to whom Mrs. Powel was pretty deeply indebted, having no other ſenſe but the joyful expectation of receiving her money, left the poor ſoul in that fainting condition, to take a

regular march through the neighbourhood, to inform them, that long look'd for was come at laſt; adding, very ſhrewdly, that if Mr. Powel did not pay to the laſt farthing ſhe wiſhed ſhe might be totally d——n'd, if ſhe would not ſend him back to his old lodging. And for fear of diſappointment, was reſolving within herſelf to go directly to a lawyer, to take out a writ againſt him; till a perſon who ſtood by, threatened to ſet the mob upon her, if ſhe went a ſtep farther than her own houſe, till ſhe had ſpoke with Mr. Powel.

Such was the brutality and ſavage temper of this wretch, who inſtead of commiſerating the long ſcene of ſorrow he had ſuffered, and bearing a part in the extatic joy, all humane hearts muſt naturally feel on ſo unexpected a redemption from the ſharpeſt miſery: this monſter was immediately contriving freſh plagues to embitter and corrode his growing happineſs. But that was not in her power; for at her return, Mr. Powel demanded his bill, and inſtantly diſcharged it. Upon which, the hypocritical jade's tone was turn'd, with

with many aſſurances of her regard for him and his family; that ſhe never in the leaſt doubted her money, whenever 'twas in their power; had it been ten times the ſum, they ſhould have been wellcome. She always thought Mr. Powel, tho' he was an unfortunate, yet he was an honeſt man. Pray Sir, what will you and madam be pleaſed to drink? Lord bleſs me! where are the little dear babies? out at play I warrant 'em. Lord, Sally, (ſpeaking to her daughter) do you go and ſee for 'em, and tell them, Sir is come, I dare ſay they are hungry; here, reach me the pye out of the cupboard, pleaſe God, they ſhall have their bellies full. The diſſembling beaſt, (who had before uſed Mrs. Powel and her infants with the utmoſt barbariſm, frequently inſulting her on account of her huſband's misfortunes) concluded that Mr. Powel would remain in her lodging; applying herſelf to his wife, pleaſe the lord, ſaid ſhe, we'll put up the blue curtains, and ſet a chair or two, and a table in the room, you can't have a prettier nor a pleaſanter room when I have furniſhed it. By the by, ſhe

allowed Mrs. Powel neither chair nor ſtool, but ſhe and her little ones were forced to ſit and paſs their melancholly hours on the floor.

Mr. Powel told her, ſhe need not give herſelf that unneceſſary trouble, for that he ſhould remove his family that evening.

The ſlut obſerving Mr. Powel to have a large quantity of gold, having changed a note of five and twenty pounds, as he drove home, at a friend's houſe; who gave him and his family an invitation till they could ſettle themſelves. She had an hawk's eye at it, and ſeem'd very much diſturbed at his leaving her; promiſing to make every thing agreeable to him, if he would ſtay; which he poſitively aſſured her he would not. Then deſired Mrs. Perkins (who was always as friendly to Mrs. Powel, as her unhappy low circumſtances would permit) to go and fetch as many neceſſaries out of pawn for his wife and children, as would furniſh 'em to go to their friend's houſe.

While ſhe was gone, the little ſouls came home, and expreſt as much tranſport

ſport at the ſight of their father, as could be poſſibly expected from their tender ages. Mrs. Powel began to clean and prepare them to be dreſſed, as ſoon as Mrs. Perkins returned; which ſhe did with the utmoſt expedition. Mr. Powel preſented her with a crown-piece for her trouble; which the landlady ſeeing, forced the poor creature to pay her directly in part of what ſhe owed, threatning to turn her out of her lodging if ſhe did not let her have all the reſt, as ſoon as the two coats ſhe had in hand were quilted. The poor creature, for the ſake of a quiet life, was obliged to comply; tho' ſhe proteſted, ſhe had not another farthing in the world.

Mr. Powel, who had ſo lately felt the bitter pains of poverty, bore ſo large a part in the poor woman's affliction, he deſired to know how much ſhe owed this greedy mortal? Which, ſhe ſaid, was eight and thirty ſhillings, but as ſoon as it had mounted up to forty, ſhe'd have ſent her over the water, ſhe vow'd. Upon which Mrs. Perkins burſt into tears: but Mr. Powel ſoon turn'd her ſorrow into joy, as ſhe was

an honeſt, induſtrious, woman, paying her debt, and hiring her as a ſervant to wait on the children, and took her away with him that evening.

This made the wretch ten times more mad than ſhe was before, to have her lodgings ſtripped of all her tenants at once; but to ſooth her grief, ſhe immediately had recourſe to her Anniſeed water bottle, which ſhe ply'd very cloſely. And when the coach drove away with Mr. Powel and his family, attended by Mrs. Perkins; ſhe was ſo fortified with the ſtrength of the creature, and finding herſelf diveſted of all future hopes of gain, in bitterneſs of rage, fell to clapping her hands, and bleſſing her ſtars, that ſhe had got rid of the noiſy crew, (meaning the poor children) damning them all for a parcel of jail birds; and bawling as loud as ſhe could, aſked Mr. Powel, how long he thought he ſhould keep out of the Marſhalſea? As the coach moved ſlowly, on account of the young ones, he had the pleaſure of hearing her diſcourſe the length of a ſtreet; which ſerved them to laugh at,

and

and reflect on the misery, the want of sense and humanity exposed any one to, who laboured under that misfortune.

Mr. Powel's friend had prepared an elegant supper for him, and waited at the street-door to give him the earliest welcome possible, expressing an unbounded pleasure in seeing him and family again restored to happiness.

After supper, Mr. Powel gave his friend an account of Mr. Evelyn, who was the occasion next to Heaven, of that prospect of comfort that lay before him.

Then parted to their repose, with a serenity of mind that only can be felt by those, who have undergone, and overcome a proportionable share of inexplicable misery.

CHAP. XI.

Mr. Powel *with his Wife wait on Mr.* Evelyn. *Mr.* Powel's *Hiſtory. He goes to the* Indies, *carries with him a Recommendatory Letter to Mr.* Jennings. *Miſs* Evelyn *is married to Sir* John, *falls ſick, and recovers. A Diſcovery of her Paſſion for another. A Deſcription of his Perſon. Sir* John *dies.*

AT nine next morning, Mr. Powel and his wife went to pay their reſpects to Mr. Evelyn, who was greatly pleaſed to ſee the transformation in Mrs. Powel, from what her huſband had the day before deſcribed to him concerning her appearance.

Mr. Evelyn deſired Mr. Powel to give him his hiſtory from the time of his father's death, which he did as follows.

When

When my father died, Sir, ſaid he, he left behind him two daughters, and myſelf; but as my ſiſters had five hundred pounds apiece left them by an uncle who was an old batchelor, he only doubled their portions; leaving me a thouſand pounds and his ſtock in trade; all which was free from any incumbrance, and amounted to about a thouſand pounds more.

I had then been married about two years, and was bleſſed with two lovely boys which are ſtill living. Our family being but ſmall, and our houſe extremely large; to lighten the burthen of a heavy rent, we concluded to take in boarders; which we ſoon did, unhappily for me! as it laid the foundation for all the misfortunes I ſince have undergone.

A well dreſt gentleman, coming one day to my ſhop, after having laid out a conſiderable ſum of money; aſked me, if I knew where he could be accommodated with a genteel apartment, for a couple of months; which was the time he propoſed to ſtay in town. That his buſineſs here was to attend a lawſuit, in which he was pretty certain of his car-

carrying the day, as his cauſe was juſt. That he had been above three years endeavouring to recover an eſtate, which he had been wrongfully kept out of by a diſtant relation, who took the advantage of his being in the Indies to get poſſeſſion of it when his brother died, who left it him.

I being very young, and entirely unſkilled in the baſe practices of the world, immediately propoſed the ſtranger's coming to live at our houſe, as his appearance and behaviour, I thought, was a ſufficient recommendation, without any farther enquiry.

Accordingly we agreed, and he came the next day, having bought as much Holland and Cambrick as was to make him three dozen of ſhirts, beſides a ſuitable quantity of fine Muſlin for cravats. He gave them to my wife's care, to be put them out to be made for him; all which was accompliſhed with the utmoſt haſte, and he paid ready money for the making of them, as ſoon as they were brought home; as indeed he did the firſt five weeks conſtantly diſcharge his lodging and board. His converſation was perfectly

agree-

agreeable, and we grew mighty fond of his company. He paſſed all his leiſure hours with us, that he could ſpare from his attendence on his law ſuit. In ſhort, he ingratiated himſelf ſo much into both my wife's favour and mine, that we never thought ourſelves compleatly happy without him.

About the ſeventh week of his being with us, he came home from Lincolns-Inn Hall; where, he ſaid, his cauſe was tried, and appeared very melancholly; which I obſerving, aſked him the reaſon? The reaſon, ſaid he, Mr. Powel, 'tis enough to diſtract me, to think that I have ſpent ſuch immenſe ſums in defence of this cauſe, and muſt loſe it for want of four hundred pounds more to carry on; and tho' I have a pretty eſtate, yet I'm ſo circumſtanced at preſent, I can't command ſuch a ſum as that theſe ſix months. Upon this, I aſked him where his eſtate lay? he told me, by the lands end, in Cornwal; then proceeded again in his vexation, to think he ſhould be liable to loſe five hundred a year (to which he ſaid he had an undoubted right) for want of four hundred pounds.

I heartily commiſerated his misfortune, and aſſured him, if I could by any means be ſerviceable to him, I would. To which he directly replied, why, Mr. Powel, if you know any body that can furniſh me with ſuch a parcel of money, for ſix months, I'll allow them twenty per Cent. and give them a bond for a payment at the expiration of that time.

I told him, I'd conſider on't, and let him know the next day. When I went to bed, I conſulted with my wife, who was equally concern'd for his diſtreſs. Upon the whole we concluded to let him have the money ourſelves.

When I roſe, being willing to put him out of his pain, informed him of my deſign to draw upon the bank; he was extreamly overjoy'd, and ſeem'd very thankful; deſiring me either to get a bond filled up myſelf, or his lawyer ſhould do it, while I was gone for the money.

Not having the leaſt doubt of his doing any thing that was wrong, I left it to him; and in about two hours the matter was ended; and away he went, as he ſaid to the lawyer. I having at

that

that time a demand upon a perſon who had been in my books longer than I choſe, deſired this gentleman to take a line to him; ſo only writing a couple of lines on the top, ſubſcribed my name at the very bottom of the paper, by which means a large vacancy was left, which this villain (ſo I muſt call him) tearing off the letter, fill'd up with a promiſſary note on demand for two hundred pounds, with my own hand to witneſs againſt me at the bottom. Being ſomewhat chagrin'd with the perſon I wrote to, I made an abrupt concluſion only ſigning my name. This cruel wretch obſerving that I had laid his bond in my ſcrutore, beg'd the favour in a few days after that I would let him write a letter on it; I innocently, though ſtupidly, giving him the key, he found an opportunity of ſlipping the bond into his pocket; and the very next day while we were all at church, being Sunday, by help of his emiſſaries, convey'd his cloaths away and went beyond ſea, leaving the note in a lawyer's hands to put it in force againſt me, and remit him the money as quick as poſſible.

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In about a fortnight after his elopement I was arreſted for the two hundred pounds; and going to my ſcrutore to ſearch for the bond to prove how much he was in my debt, was ſoon convinced of his knaviſh and barbarous deſign in writing his pretended letter; in ſhort, I put in bail, and ſtood the teſt of a law-ſuit, in which I was caſt; the expences of which, and the loſſes I had before ſuſtain'd entirely ruin'd me, and brought on the dreadful ſcenes of miſery my poor family and I have ſince endured, and muſt have ſtill undergone, had not, by Heaven's permiſſion, your timely ſuccour, Sir, interpoſed. My two ſiſters were luckily removed before this villainous wretch came acquainted with me; otherwiſe it is not impoſſible, but they might have been alſo made a prey to his barbarity; but they being under age, and my father dead, their guardian took them intirely to his care; and he being a man that traded to different parts of the world took them with him, delivering them to his wife's charge, and it is many years ſince I heard from them; the laſt in-

intelligence I had was, that they were in Holland, nor do I know if they are living.

Mr. Evelyn told him he was very ſorry that his humanity ſhould have been ſo groſly impoſed on, but deſired to know what he propoſed to do for a future maintenance? His anſwer was, that he had thoughts of endeavouring to improve the money Mr. Evelyn had ſo generouſly furniſh'd him with, by going abroad; that as he underſtood merchandize tolerably well, he rather choſe to ſettle among ſtrangers, conceiving he ſhould have a better chance for thriving, than among thoſe who had formerly pretended to be his friends.

Mr. Evelyn approved of his deſign, and gave him a recommendatory letter to Mr. Jennings, adviſing him to ſettle in that colony; as he was well aſſured that gentleman would prove a worthy friend to him on his account. While Mr. Evelyn ſtaid in town Mr. Powel was continually with him; but before he left London he had the ſatisfaction to ſee this late unfortunate man, with his family, take ſhipping for the Weſt-Indies, of which a farther account will be given hereafter.

Mr.

Mr. Evelyn met his tradesmen as he had appointed, who one and all began to enquire after poor Powel; and it was with infinite pleasure he inform'd them that he had a very fair prospect before him of being a much happier man than ever; that he was releas'd from prison, and freed from all incumbrances; he received an universal applause for so generous an action, which they said must perpetuate his memory, and secure to him eternal happiness both in this world and the next.

Mr. Evelyn having entirely accomplish'd his affairs, returned to Iver, where he found Sir John Generous in a languishing condition, which Miss Evelyn's scorn had occasioned; the Count and her papa consulted together a considerable time what should be the cause of her obstinate refusal; and as neither of them could assign any, Mr. Evelyn was resolutely determined not to let her blindly oppose her interest. As there was no sort of objection that could possibly be made to Sir John, he took her severely to task about him; but she only answer'd him with tears; at last he told her it was the

Count's

Count's requeſt, and his poſitive commands, that ſhe ſhould receive him for a huſband; that if ſhe perſiſted in her refuſal of him, he would never acknowledge her as his child from that inſtant. So bidding her conſider on what he had propoſed, ſhe withdrew into her bedchamber; where her own maid who ſet at work, perceiving her young lady to be under infinite confuſion, took the liberty to intreat to know the reaſon; which Miſs unable to reſolve her, throwing herſelf on the bed, burſt into a torrent of ſorrow, which laſted for ſome time; her maid, who was extremely fond of her, could not bear to ſee her to greatly afflicted; and being a young woman of a tolerable ſhare of ſenſe, in the tendereſt manner importuned Miſs ro eaſe her anxiety, by unburdening her mind to her, with a firm aſſurance, without her permiſſion, never to diſcloſe the motive of her grief.

Poor Miſs, whoſe heart was breaking on account of her papa's diſpleaſure (being the firſt time ſhe ever had incurr'd it, and the dreadful apprehenſion of being wedded where ſhe could not love, furniſh'd her with ten-

ten thouſand diſtracted thoughts, at laſt ſhe deſired her maid, whom ſhe thank'd for her proffer'd friendſhip and fidelity, to beg the favour of her Mama to come to her. The tender mother ſoon obey'd the ſummons, and beſeech'd her daughter to unfold the myſtery which gave birth to this unutterable grief!

Oh! Madam, anſwer'd the young lady, there is a cauſe, and indeed a guiltleſs one; but I conjure you by all the fond maternal love you have ever ſhewn me, do not inſiſt upon my making a diſcovery of it. The count's unlimited bounty to my deareſt father, conjoin'd with his commands, are notwithſtanding my diſtreſs, too powerful motives for me to dare to diſobey them, and though my ſoul abhors even the very mention of this alliance, I am reſolved to ſacrifice my peace to gratitude and duty; I both believe and wiſh my compliance may end a life I once thought happy; but from the hour I eſpouſe Sir John, I ſhall date its miſery to the laſt moment of my exiſtence.

Her tender mother, though ſhe did not inſiſt on knowing who the perſon was, eaſily conceived that her daughter's heart

heart was deeply engaged elſewhere; offering her, if ſhe would make a generous confeſſion, ſhe would endeavour to ſoften the rigour of her father's diſpleaſure, and uſe her utmoſt efforts to prevent the intended match; but all arguments were vain, Miſs was not to be prevail'd on to give the leaſt hint of that nature; but entreated her mama to make no farther enquiry, that ſhe was ready to yield a perfect obedience to her father's will, though ſhe were ſure to expire the next minute.

Poor Mrs. Evelyn's grief on this account was inexpreſſible from the fears of loſing her darling child, which ſhe apprehended would be the fatal conſequence of her marriage. As ſhe was fully convinced of her being violently in love in another place; what to do ſhe could not tell, as ſhe was with her daughter equally compell'd by a grateful ſenſe of the Count's goodneſs (who was ſtrenuous for the match) and an implicit obedience to her huſband. She left Miſs with her maid, and went directly to Mr. Evelyn with the relation of all that had paſſed, not daring to inſinuate to him what ſhe con-

conjectured in reſpect to her daughter's inclination to ſome other; however, ſhe uſed many arguments to diſſwade him from the marriage, but in vain; he alledging that as Miſs would give no other reaſon than merely not caring to marry, he ſhould poſitively inſiſt upon it, being well aſſured Sir John Generous was capable of making her one of the happieſt women in the univerſe; then charged his wife to let her know that in three days the nuptials were to be ſolemnized.

When Miſs received the news ſhe fainted away, and continued doing ſo for near the ſpace of an hour; her afflicted mother would fain have return'd to Mr. Evelyn, but Miſs would not ſuffer her; telling her that the ſooner ſhe was married, ſo much ſooner her life and miſery would end together. Accordingly the marriage was ſolemnized, the Count gave her away, and Sir John thought himſelf the happieſt of mankind, while lady Generous (for ſo we muſt call her now) was exactly the reverſe. When the ceremony was ended ſhe fell into a ſwoon in the church, and it was with difficulty they brought

brought her back to life; the bride-groom was like a diſtracted creature with the dreadful apprehenſion of her loſs, and with the tendereſt endearments try'd to ſooth her ſorrow; he and Mr. Dumont led her to Sir John's own coach, ſupporting her all the way.

This violent grief was a terrible ſhock to her new made huſband, for whom her good nature, notwithſtanding her averſion to the match, was not a little concern'd, at being the unhappy cauſe of the affliction ſhe perceived he underwent on her account.

The reader may ſuppoſe there was no extraordinary rejoicing at this wedding, for poor Lady Generous's grief ſwelled up ſo high, ſhe fell into a violent fever, in which ſhe continued near two months, and was given over by the phyſicians; but it pleaſed heaven to ſpare her. During the time of her illneſs her fond huſband, who doated on her to exceſs, never ſtirred from her night or day, till by continual watching he was almoſt in as bad a condition as his lady; but Mr. Evelyn interpoſed his authority, and inſiſted on his endeavouring to reſt, which

as ſhe began to amend, he was at laſt perſuaded to. Mrs. Evelyn having occaſion to ſearch for ſomething in her daughter's cloſet, which ſhe ſeldom or ever went into; upon opening one of the drawers of her eſcrutore, diſcover'd the fatal ſecret her afflicted child had ſo cautiouſly conceal'd: the reader may remember I inform'd them that Miſs Evelyn was equal to the fineſt limners of the age in the art of painting, which talent ſhe exerciſed in above twenty different pictures ſhe had drawn of Mr. Dumont, which no mortal eye beſides her own had ever ſeen before; her mama was no longer at a loſs to find out the ſcource from whence this ſorrow flow'd, and privately inform'd her huſband of it, which when he heard, he was ready to run mad, as he ſhould have prefer'd Mr. Dumont for a ſon in law infinitely before Sir John; but ſince it was paſt recall, he laid a ſtrong injunction on Mrs. Evelyn to bury the ſecret in her breaſt. In one piece ſhe had drawn herſelf with Mr. Dumont in miniature, at full length, preſenting him a bleeding heart, ſhading her lovely eyes with a veil of cypreſs, which her other beau-

beautiful hand ſupported, to hide the falling tears that bedew'd her bluſhing cheek; on the back of each piece was the date when they were drawn; by which it plainly appear'd ſhe had been diſtractedly in love from the age of fifteen, which was full ſix years, ſhe being juſt turn'd of twenty one when ſhe married. The family could never, thro' her prudent behaviour, have been able to have found it out, had it not been occaſion'd by her being forced into this alliance with Sir John; that we may ſay of her with Shakeſpear.

" *She never told her love, but ſat like*
" *Patience on a monument ſmiling at*
" *Grief*".

By Divine permiſſion, and the ſkilful care of the phyſicians, this unhappy lady's health was at laſt reſtor'd; but alas a ſetled ſorrow dwelt ever on her mind, which her tender huſband hourly endeavour'd to remove, but fruitleſs were his attempts;

" *For love conceal'd lay like a canker-*
" *worm upon her heart, eating thro'*
" *the quiet of her ſoul*".

As ſoon as the phyſicians thought proper Sir John took her down to his ſeat in Northumberland, having firſt prepared a ſplendid and magnificent equipage to eſcort her: But now comes the dreadful ſtroke of fate, when ſhe muſt part from all her heart held dear, without even the ſatisfaction of innocently ſeeing and converſing with him.

The fatal day being come that was to ſeparate her from this much loved object, a freſh ſcene of woe appear'd; the only conſolation ſhe received was in having the pleaſure of her mama's company to her new ſeat, which in her deplorable ſtate of mind ſhe would have joyfully exchanged for her grave.

After ſhe had taken leave of the Count in the moſt reſpectful manner, ſhe left the apartment to indulge the ſorrow ſhe ſuſtain'd in parting from his lordſhip; but how much more dreadful was the ſhock when young Dumont enter'd the room to take his leave, and hand her to the coach; it happened very luckily at that moment Sir John was in the dining room with the Count, and nobody preſent with Lady Generous but her mama and Mr. Dumont. When he approach'd

tears

tears filled his eyes at the thoughts of parting, which was only the reſult of an innocent and ſincere friendſhip, that grew between them from infancy, and ſtrengthened as their years encreaſed: Happy had it been if Mr. Dumont's heart had received the ſame fond impreſſion for the lady, as ſhe felt for him, but fate had otherwiſe decreed! When he gently took her hand, and preſſing forward to ſalute her, ſhe drop'd in all appearance dead at his foot, which alarm'd the young gentleman extreamly, giving him a pain inconceivable to ſee her in that condition; he was going to call out for help, but her mama prevented him, and with their aſſiſtance ſhe was brought to herſelf again. After the eaſe of a ſad ſhower of tears, ſhe began to be a little more compoſed.

Mrs. Evelyn being aſſured that the ceremony of a formal leave between them would only relapſe her into a ſecond torrent of grief, beckon'd Mr. Dumont out of the room; and deſired him not to ſee her any more, till he went to pay a viſit in Northumberland, whither he would have gone at that time, but that he was

obliged to ſtay with his Grand-papa. Mr. Dumont obſerved Mrs. Evelyn's directions, and went out of the way till they were all ſet forward on their journey.

Notwithſtanding this young gentleman was in the eye of every beholder, the compleateſt and fineſt figure of a man that ever graced a court, or charm'd the heart of woman, he was the only inſenſible perſon of thoſe happy attractions; therefore had no other conception of Lady Generous's diſtreſs, but that it proceeded from her inviolable friendſhip, which was adequate with his, and equally wounded at their ſeparation; and that the ſhock was too violent for her tender nature to ſupport. He little dream'd that Sir John had only carried off the outward frame, and that her whole ſoul, with its deareſt beſt affections, were entirely left with him. I ſhould have obſerved that at the bottom of one of the pictures this lady drew of Dumont, her fond imagination had led her ſo far as to inſert thoſe lines with which Hamlet deſcribes the perſon of his father, *viz.*

" *See*

" *See what a grace is ſeated on this brow,*
" *Hyperion's curls, the front of Jove*
" *himſelf,*
" *An eye like Mars to threaten and com-*
" *mand,*
" *A combination and a form indeed,*
" *whereon*
" *Each God did ſeem to ſet his ſeal, to*
" *Give the world aſſurance of a man*".

Many may be apt to think the Lady's partial fondneſs excited her to give this amiable deſcription of him without his having a real claim to it; but it is the general opinion of all who know him, to allow he does not in the leaſt fall ſhort of it; nor has nature only outwardly adorn'd him, for his mind is beautiful as his perſon; therefore we muſt hope that all who read Miſs Evelyn's ſtory will rather pity than condemn her, as ſhe ſo worthily beſtow'd her heart.

As ſoon as the new married pair were arrived at their ſeat, Sir John and Mrs. Evelyn wrote to Iver, giving but a melancholy account of the poor lady who relapſed into a ſecond illneſs, which with much difficulty ſhe at laſt overcame.

When ſhe was perfectly recover'd Mrs. Evelyn took her leave and return'd to Iver. The morning they came away Sir John gave his mother in law a paper ſealed up, which as it was the beginning of the year, he beg'd her to accept on as a New-year's gift; notwithſtanding the ſmallneſs of the parcel, ſhe conceived it to be a valuable preſent, but never examin'd the contents of it till ſhe got to Iver, which upon opening, ſhe found to be bank notes for two thouſand pounds; upon which ſhe wrote to her ſon a letter of ſincereſt acknowledgments; and in return he ſent her word he had received more than mines of wealth from her hand, for which his whole eſtate and life conjoin'd, could never make her a ſufficient amends.

Sir John and his lady, notwithſtanding her want of conjugal affection, lived as happy as could be poſſibly expected; he was ever ſtudying to eaſe the anxiety of mind he too plainly perceived ſhe labour'd under; nor was he ignorant of the cauſe of her melancholy; and though not poſitively aſſured that Mr. Dumont was the object of her love, he ſhrewdly ſuſ-

ſuſpected it; but as ſhe was diſcreet enough never to mention his name, her huſband was equally cautious to avoid it. He knew by himſelf that love was an involuntary paſſion, therefore could not blame her, eſpecially as he had in a manner robbed her of herſelf, was determined to make the utmoſt amends within his power, by a conſtant endeavour to make her happy; and ſhe, on her part, ſtrove to conceal the love that labour'd in her breaſt by an exact complacency of temper, and a perpetual ſpring of good nature; each thinking they had wrong'd the other, the one by forcibly marrying the Lady contrary to her will, and ſhe by allienating her heart from one, whom ſhe confeſſed, had it not been for her love to Dumont, ſhe might have been truly happy with.

They lived together three years; Sir John's affection hourly encreaſing was greatly augmented by the birth of a beautiful daughter, in the ſecond year of their marriage; I muſt obſerve to the reader this child was the very image of Mr. Dumont, which might, in the opinion of the cenſorious, have drawn an

imputation on the lady's character had they been together at that time; but they had not ſeen each other two years before the birth of this infant, or if they had, there was the ſtrong guard of the lady's impregnable virtue to take off an odium of that kind. But it is no wonder the child ſhould bear ſo ſtrong a reſemblance of one who was the hourly image of the mother's thoughts. Nor did ſhe fail to indulge her eyes in often viewing the pictures ſhe had of him, which ſhe kept unknown to any one.

It happened one day, Sir John was obliged to attend at the aſſizes, being choſe among the reſt of the gentlemen of the county to make up the number of the Grand jury. The county town was ten miles diſtant from his ſeat, and the court ſitting late, he would not be perſwaded to ſtay all night, but excited by his fondneſs, reſolved to go home late as it was. When he came within half a mile of his own houſe, his horſe took fright and threw him ſeveral yards from him, which broke his arm, and bruiſed him inwardly in ſo terrible a manner he

was

was thrown into a violent fever, and expired in a few days.

The firſt tender attack he ever made on the heart of lady Generous, was at the ſight of him in his diſtreſs, when he was brought in by his ſervants; had it even been Mr. Dumont, ſhe could not have ſhewn more tender concern; and her care of him the time he languiſh'd under his misfortune, greatly alleviated his pain, and convinced him of the dignity of her mind, that could ſo patiently endure ſuch a load of complicated woes with ſo perfect a reſignation.

Some few moments before the death of this unfortunate gentleman, he deſired his afflicted lady to lye by him on the bed, having ſomething of conſequence to impart to her; then ordering the ſervants and nurſe to withdraw; he thus addreſſed himſelf. "My heart's deareſt "bleſſing, I am now upon the ex-"tream verge of life, therefore hope "you won't be offended at what I "am going to ſay; I know my un-"bounded paſſion for you has been the "motive of that continued melancholly "and violent illneſs you have twice

" endured; for which I ſincerely im-
" plore your pardon. I alſo am no
" ſtranger to the tender regard and in-
" vincible fondneſs your diſappointed
" heart is charged with for young Du-
" mont". Lady Generous intreated him to proceed no farther, unleſs he intended her immediate death. After having given her time to recover from the ſurprize and agony he threw her into by theſe laſt words, he reſumed his diſcourſe; aſſuring her that ſo far from being angry, he thought himſelf more than much obliged to her for having ſacrificed her own happineſs to eſtabliſh his. " When I am dead, which in a
" very ſhort time, ſaid he, I certainly
" ſhall be; the only amends I can make
" you, is to intreat you to let your
" papa (who I am aſſured is no ſtranger
" to the tendereſt ſecrets of your ſoul)
" contrive the means of a reward for all
" thoſe ſufferings my unhappy love has
" brought upon you, by a wiſh'd for
" union with his worthy friend". His ſpeech was interrupted by a flood of tears; which when ſhe had gently wiped away with the ſofteſt tenderneſs, he

beg'd

beg'd her to love his little one for the ſake of him, who tho' in the agonizing pains of death, felt no pain equal to that of leaving her. Lady Generous had but juſt life enough herſelf to ring the bell to order the phyſicians in, who were conſtantly attending in the houſe, but before they came up he had with a gentle ſigh expired in her arms, fixing his fond eyes to their laſt beam of light upon the only object of his tend'reſt wiſhes.

When the phyſicians came in and found Sir John dead, they immediately conducted the afflicted lady to another apartment; and ſure no perſon breathing ever labour'd under ſuch accumulated griefs as poor Lady Generous! Conſider her dreadful circumſtance! Her poor heart long tormented with a hopeleſs paſſion for another; her grateful mind corroded with the ſight of her expiring huſband, who doated on her even to madneſs; the reflection of all his ſufferings on her account, and his generous conſignment of her even to his rival at their mournful parting, raiſed ſuch a conflict in her ſoul, that had ſhe not been ſtrongly fortified with an uncommon

common underſtanding, ſhe muſt have conſequently fallen a victim to ſuch an unreaſonable ſhare of dire calamities.

The next day Sir John's will was read, which entitled his lady to the whole eſtate, paying out of it a fortune of ten thouſand pounds to little Miſs when ſhe came of age; and in caſe lady Generous died a widow, the whole eſtate to devolve upon the child; but if otherwiſe, it was left to the lady and her heirs for ever. He left alſo two hundred a year during the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn, beſides ſome trifling legacies to ſervants.

Lady Generous gave orders to her ſteward to have Sir John interr'd with great funeral pomp, that nothing might be wanting to teſtify the high reſpect ſhe ſhould ever pay to his memory. Accordingly he lay in ſtate ſome days, and one of the fineſt marble monuments was erected, with his effigy at full length, and a beautiful epitaph deſcribing the noble character he juſtly deſerved.

The ſteward diſpatch'd a ſervant with letters to the Count's family, who were

ſenſibly

ſenſibly touched with the loſs of this much valued gentleman. Mr. Evelyn went back with the meſſenger who bro't the fatal news, with a deſign to have perſuaded the Lady to reſide at Iver, in hopes of diverting her melancholly; and the rather as it might have been a means to have crown'd the end of all her wiſhes in Mr. Dumont.

When Mr. Evelyn arrived, he found his daughter, (whoſe beauties even grief could not ſhadow) ſitting with her ſweet babe, whom ſhe was alternately kiſſing and weeping o'er: all the apartments were hung in mourning for a twelvemonth, and every ſoul in the houſe, to the moſt menial ſervant, bore an aſpect of real ſorrow for their worthy maſter.

Lady Generous was greatly pleaſed at this unexpected viſit from her papa; who propoſed her removing from her ſeat, for the forementioned reaſons; but, even in reſpect to that, ſhe diſcovered a nobleneſs of ſoul, which I may venture to affirm is unprecedented; for when her father urged her probability of marrying Dumont, making then his knowledge

ledge of her paſſion for him no longer a ſecret; ſhe abſolutely refuſed the offer, as ſhe was determined to pay the ſtricteſt reſpect to the memory of her deceas'd huſband; adding, that ſhe had been ſo inur'd to ſorrow, ſhe was reſolved to ſubmit to its utmoſt poignancy, rather than wound her fame, by flying to ſuch a relief as muſt put her in the eye of modeſty, upon the level of a common proſtitute.

I am apt to think, if the great example of this virtuous Lady, whoſe love was of ſo delicate a nature, and founded upon the moſt exalted principles of truth and honour, was more univerſal: The Britiſh fair ones would ſecure to themſelves a more laſting tenderneſs, and higher opinion of their underſtandings, than a too forward fondneſs can poſſibly create in the mind of a lover or a huſband.

Mr. Evelyn was ſo charmed with her ſuperiority of ſenſe, he could not forbear taking her to his arms, expreſſing his joy, by a vaſt effuſion from his eyes; after fondly embracing her, and kiſſing with tendereſt affection her lovely offſpring, whoſe features bore the ſtrong re-

reſemblance of Dumont; which he obſerving, alaſs! ſaid he, my child, what malignant ſtar preſided to obſtruct the happineſs we might have all enjoyed, had fate ordain'd this little one to have been the iſſue of him, whoſe image it exactly wears, in every glance and ſmile? Why did you not reveal your paſſion to your mother, who would have ſpar'd your bluſhes in communicating the ſecret to me? You know the influence I have over our much eſteem'd and valued friend the Count; whoſe fondneſs for you almoſt equals that he feels for young Dumont; then the friendſhip contracted from your infancies, authorized by my Lord's commands, would ſoon on his part have ripen'd into love.

No Sir, replied the Lady, notwithſtanding Mr. Dumont's being dearer to me than life and its utmoſt happineſs, I reſolved never to make the leaſt diſcovery of my inclination, unleſs his heart had been equally ſubdued. I found a ſecret charm in his converſation, and the extremeſt pleaſure of my life was to behold him. As he was diſengaged, I thought it a ſufficient tranſport

to

to know I had no rival to kill my hopes; therefore patiently endured the pains I ſuffered from uncertainty, and thought it a ſweet reward, to have hourly in view the dear delightful object of my love.

But, Sir, (continued ſhe) I entreat we may drop the ſubject, which now ill ſuits the decency required in my preſent circumſtance. Sir John, whom I lament as a moſt valuable friend, muſt now engroſs my thoughts; and though my diſtracted mind, and tortur'd heart, could not make him the ſoft returns of love his fondneſs beſtowed on me; I ſhall, however, even to a religious ſenſe of tenderneſs, pay that grateful tribute to his memory, his honeſt ſoul deſerves, and juſtly claims.

Her father could not but approve of her conduct, yet ſtill was anxious for her welfare, and feared her devoting herſelf to ſuch continued melancholly would ſoon deprive him of her; therefore reſolved, in hopes to ſoften and aſſwage her grief, to ſtay with her the winter; but was prevented by an expreſs from Mr. Dumont, to inform him his Grand-

Grandpapa was taken dangerouſly ill, and begged him to return with the utmoſt haſte.

This was another cruel ſtroke of fate to poor Lady Generous; who upon hearing the news, ſaid, ſhe began to imagine that Heaven had marked her out to bear inceſſant and multiplied afflictions. Then ſighing, cried, be it ſo! Who dare diſpute the Power Omnipotent? and ſince I'm born to ſtruggle with misfortunes, let meekeſt patience guide me thro' the dreadful maze of never ceaſing woe!

Her father was in the utmoſt diſtreſs at leaving her, but ſhe knew he was compelled by the ſtrongeſt bonds of affection, gratitude, and honour; and early next morning he took a melancholly farewel of her and his beloved grandchild, to pay his laſt duty as it proved to his noble friend.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

The Count's *Death. His Interment in* France. *Mr.* Dumont *meets with Miſs* Le Roy *and her Brother at* Dover. *Attends her to* London. *Better he had not. Mr.* Evelyn *diſpleaſed, goes with his Spouſe to reſide with Lady* Generous.

MR. Evelyn's great regard, and high concern, gave wings to his eager expedition; and in leſs time than could be expected, he reached Iver, to the great ſurprize of the whole family. When he ſaw the terrible alteration which the death dealing hand of time had ſtamped in every feature of the Count, he was forced to withdraw to give vent to unutterable grief.

Mr. Dumont and Mrs. Evelyn, who were conſtant in their attendance, perceiving by Mr. Evelyn's grief and confuſion when he left the room, that he ap-

apprehended the Count's diſſolution was near at hand; they underwent an additional weight of ſorrow, having till then flattered themſelves with ſome hopes of his recovery.

The good Count miſſing his dear friend, lifting up his feeble eyes in ſearch of him; told his grandſon, he apprehended that his approaching fate was more than his honeſt tender heart could bear; therefore I won't recall him, till he finds himſelf capable of a voluntary return.

In the mean time, continued he, my deareſt Harry, let me employ my lateſt moments in comforting thy grief-ſwoln heart; conſider, my child, how wonderfully in thy favour, Providence has bleſt me with length of days to ſee thee, (at leaſt I fondly think ſo) the wonder of the world! and of an age to guard thyſelf with the aſſiſtance of thy virtues againſt any temptation that might lure thee to the moſt trifling fall of honour. Think of my departure, but as being appointed as thy careful purveyor on a journey thou muſt hereafter take; where we ſhall meet in joy never to be ſeparated more.

Mr.

Mr. Dumont's filial ſorrow grew almoſt inſupportable; which the Count tried to aſſwage, by telling him 'twas an offence to Heaven, to let contending grief o'er-ſway his reaſon; that as it had ſpared him to a good old age, he ſhould reflect how much he was obliged to the Power Divine, which might have cut his thread of life e'er half thoſe years were finiſhed; that he was now kindly invited to everlaſting peace, and a ceſſation from ſuch pains his nature's ſtrength could no longer bear.

Mr. Evelyn by this time was returned, whom the worthy Count entreated with the reſt of his family, to join with him in prayer; which as often as his weak condition would permit, they did moſt fervently. His ſenſes continuing to the laſt; between the hours of one and two in the morning, with a ſmiling aſpect, and gentle ſigh, he reſigned his noble ſoul into the All Powerful Hand that gave it. Thus ended the life of the worthieſt gentleman that e'er adorn'd a court, or graced the moſt exalted titles of nobility.

The general grief that diffuſed itſelf on this melancholly occaſion is not difficult

ficult to conceive, that I ſhall not tire the reader's patience with a deſcription of it, as a lively imagination can ſo eaſily paint it in its utmoſt diſtreſs.

The Count ordered by his will to have his body depoſited in France, and placed in the vault as near as poſſible to the remains of Mr. Dumont and Lady Charlotte.

His fortune he bequeathed to his well beloved grandſon, and three hundred pound per Annum, to Mr. and Mrs. Evelyn, during their lives. Alſo legacies to ſervants.

His Lordſhip after his embalment, was conveyed to the ſeat of eternal reſt with his anceſtors, attended by the family in general.

After ſome time, when Mr Dumont's ſorrow was in ſome meaſure allayed, by Mr. Evelyn's advice, he made a tour through France and Italy; then returned again to France, to ſettle ſome affairs relative to two vaſt eſtates, which devolved to him on the death of his Grandpapa, and thoſe he was entitled to in the right of his father; all which, made him maſter of full eighteen thouſand pounds a year.

When

When his buſineſs was accompliſh'd he embark'd for England and landed at Dover, where he happened at the inn to fall into the company of Miſs Le Roy, and her brother, who had been over to Paris to ſell an eſtate they had left them by an uncle, which was divided equally between them.

This lady and her brother were of French extraction, but Engliſh born, and had been each poſſeſs'd of very fine fortunes; but from an inſatiable fondneſs for gaming, they had reduced themſelves to a neceſſity of jointly conſenting to part from the forementiond eſtate, not ſo much for a needful ſupport, as to ſupply that avaricious folly, and I may ſay, baſeneſs of mind, which had been the fatal cauſe of their undoing. Miſs Le Roy was as ſplendidly dreſs'd as a rich riding habit could poſſibly admit of. She was a tall graceful figure, and perfectly genteel; I can't ſay ſhe was to compare in beauty with Lady Generous, but there was an attractive je ne quoy in her aſpect that is equally ſure of captivating the heart; which ſhe fail'd not to do even to a diſtracted

fondneſs, that of poor Mr. Dumont; nor was the young Lady unaffected with the nobleneſs of his form; but the hazard and card tables, which were moſt formidable rivals, would not give way to the ſofter paſſion of love, ſo far as to ſuffer her to know the terrible anxieties Lady Generous had felt on that account; yet notwithſtanding ſhe ſoon found he had a very particular intereſt in her heart, and as he cloſely purſued her, reſolved as ſoon as they got to London, to give conſent to marry him, which ſhe never promiſed till then, having ſenſe enough to ſecure her conqueſt, by not being over forward.

Miſs Le Roy having an acquaintance who was newly married at Canterbury, ſhe ſtaid a week there to pay her reſpects to her friend. Mr. Dumont went to the King's-Head with his whole family, nor was all the eloquence and rhetorick Mr. Evelyn was maſter of ſufficiently powerful to move him, till Miſs Le Roy left the place.

This worthy gentleman foreſeeing that Mr. Dumont was unhappily fallen into a dreadful ſnare, and from which he

fear'd it was impoſſible to redeem him, grew exceſſively uneaſy, ſetting before him the terrible hazards a man ran who enter'd into an alliance with a woman ſo devoted to gaming, that the beſt eſtate in the kingdom might be ruin'd from the reſult of that deteſtable vice, and in plain terms, told him, he ſaw his ruin They prolong'd their ſtay about ten days, during which time Mr. Dumont and Mr. Evelyn were equally aſſiduous, the one in purſuit of his love, and the other no leſs ſo in trying to diſſuade him from what he afterwards had very powerful reaſons to repent.

This unfortunate affair occaſion'd a great coldneſs between theſe two gentlemen; in ſhort, the debate between them aroſe to ſuch a height, that Mr. Dumont poſitively affirm'd to Mr. Evelyn, all arguments in oppoſition to his deſign of marrying Miſs Le Roy were fruitleſs, and (as he through his impatience pleaſed to add) impertinent; this was a ſtyle Mr. Evelyn never had been treated with from Mr. Dumont, and indeed a method of diſcourſe the young gen-

gentleman had never been before uſed to, even to the loweſt of his domeſticks; as his tutor was the firſt inſtance of his deviating from that nice decorum he had bred him up to, it ſtruck deeply to his heart, as he regarded him not only as his pupil, but with the fond eye of a tender parent. In the heat of their debate Mr. Dumont told Mr. Evelyn he thought he was of an age capable to judge for himſelf without any interpoſition, and as he was his own maſter he ſhould act agreeable to the dictates of his will. His good friend aſſured him he would never more trouble him with his advice, ſince he found his fondneſs met with ſuch ungrateful returns, and apparent contempt; but inſiſted upon his groſly miſtaking his being maſter of himſelf, while he ſubmitted to the ſlavery of unreaſonable and ungovernable paſſions. Then left the room with a diſorder'd haſte, and flew for relief to his faithful ſpouſe, whoſe ſweetneſs of temper, conjoin'd with her incomparable underſtanding, was ever ready to ſoften all his cares; and in order to mitigate the pain he ſuf-

fer'd from Mr. Dumont's unexpected abruptneſs (being fully and ſorrowfully convinced of his intention to undo himſelf) perſwaded him to avoid the pain of being witneſs of his ruin, by going down to Northumberland, and paſſing their remaining life with their much-valued and beloved child.

As ſoon as they went to London Mr. Evelyn took a painful leave of his unhappy friend, for ſuch he deem'd him; and ſettled with Lady Generous, whoſe melancholly was in a great meaſure relieved by the tender and agreeable converſation of her fond parents, who made it their continual ſtudy to ſweeten that life which unprecedented woes had long embitter'd.

The ſurprizing change of Mr. Dumont's behaviour to Mr. Evelyn, which nothing but his fatal love could have occaſion'd, gave the worthy gentleman an uneaſineſs he never felt before, and ſuch as he never truly overcame. When they parted it was but with a bare civility on both ſides; but on Mr. Evelyn's part with a ſecret grief, foreſeeing the ſad conſequences attending

this unhappy connection between Mr. Dumont and Miſs Le Roy.

This young Lady having ſeen a great deal of the world, had art enough to deal with it, as every one ought to do who have a deſign to thrive in it; and had it not been for her fondneſs for play, the match would not have been altogether ſo very unreaſonable, as ſhe was deſcended from very good families, her mother being daughter to a peer of Great-Britain, and her father a gentleman employ'd in conſiderable poſts of honour under the government; by which he ſaved handſome fortunes for his ſon and daughter, which they were ſoon ſtrip'd of from the foremention'd vice; that ſo ſhamefully predominated over their hearts, from ten thouſand pounds a piece, in leſs than three years they were not worth a ſhilling. They were then obliged to purſue this egregious folly as a buſineſs for their ſupport; and before Miſs was married, ſhe play'd away not only the trifling remains of fortune ariſing from the little eſtate ſhe had ſold, but her very watch and jewels, all which Mr.

Dumont was witneſs of; yet his unlimited paſſion could take no warning from the ſad ſpecimen ſhe gave of what he was hereafter to expect, and too ſurely ſuffer'd: nor was that fondneſs for this dreadful motive of ruin confined alone to her; the infection caught poor Mr. Dumont, and as it is natural to imitate the actions of thoſe we love, he gave demonſtrative proofs of his regard, by ſuffering this contagion to poiſon the health of reaſon and reflection, which till then had ever been the happy ornaments of his well-conducted life.

When Miſs was thoroughly convinced ſhe was undone, and perfectly aſſured of her power over her thoughtleſs lover, ſhe thought it high time to look about her, as creditors began to grow preſſing; and ſhe and her brother being equally indigent, ſhe reſolved to make a merit of neceſſity; and upon Mr. Dumont's next entreaty, conſented to name what he then thought the day of his happineſs; in purſuance of which, new coach and liveries, with an additional train of ſervants, were immediately order'd;

der'd; a ſet of dreſſing plate for the lady of two thouſand pounds value; jewels innumerable, and rich cloaths to the amount of many thouſands more, were provided for the bride; and the wedding ſolemnized with extravagant and ſuperfluous ſplendour.

Poor Mr. Dumont, who was blinded by the violence of love, conceived himſelf the happieſt of mankind; in ſhort, his boundleſs paſſion led him into a thouſand needleſs follies to pleaſe and ſupport his Lady's vanity. She ſoon eſtabliſh'd a private aſſembly for play at her own houſe, and was never miſſing at all publick diverſions.

Her brother, who by the bye, was ſwingingly in debt, and who had rather more cunning than real ſenſe, unknown to his ſiſter, contrived with his creditors to enter into a general deſign to arreſt him; which in about two months after the wedding was over, as he was ſtepping into the coach, with his brother in law, according to his own appointment and expectation, he was laid hold on for two hundred pounds; upon which Mr. Dumont,

with his accuſtom'd good nature, returned with him and the officers into the houſe, and immediately diſcharged the debt. The next day he had order'd another ſet of bailiffs to look out for him at White's chocolate-houſe, where he reſolved to go for that purpoſe; ſo only writing a line to his ſiſter, to excuſe his being ſo ſuddenly troubleſome a ſecond time, another debt of a hundred pound more was acquitted; in this manner he proceeded to get himſelf clear of all incumbrances, preſuming upon his brother in law's uncommon fondneſs for his ſiſter, to make him the dupe to his villainous impoſitions.

Mrs. Dumont, who was too ſenſible of her brother's diſregard to any points of honour, ſecretly rebuked him for this mean artifice, which with all his contrivance he had not cunning enough to conceal; but that he might never more become burdenſome to her huſband ſhe prevail'd on him to purchaſe him a commiſſion, only propoſing his having a pair of colours in the guards; but the too generous Dumont changed

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that deſign into a colonel's commiſſion in the dragoons; yet notwithſtanding he began to find out the nature and principles, or rather the want of them, in this gentleman, yet he was reſolved never to miſs any opportunity of convincing his ſpouſe of her vaſt aſcendancy o'er his heart.

As ſoon as this new officer was eſtabliſh'd, he went down into Wiltſhire to a famous cloathing town, call'd Bradford, to join the troop, which then was under his command. What happen'd to him afterwards we ſhall hereafter treat of, and return to Mr. Dumont and his Lady.

This unfortunate pair by that time they had been married two years, had through loſſes at play, and unbounded extravagancies in living, reduced the eighteen thouſand per annum moſt ſhamefully; nor was it to be wonder'd at, when neither of them ever ſet leſs upon a card than a hundred guineas, half that ſum they only call'd piddling with; and as if fate deſign'd to puniſh them for their vice, they generally loſt ten times to once winning.

Poor Mr. Evelyn, who ſtill was anxious for this unthinking gentleman, held private correſpondence with a friend who was frequently at Mr. Dumont's, and who was truly concern'd at the melancholly account he was obliged to give him, aſſuring him that by his method of life, he foreſaw inevitable ruin gathering faſt round him; and was farther grieved to add, that he was changed in many reſpects from that delicacy of mind which Mr. Evelyn's careful hand had implanted in his infancy, and pruned with ſkilful tenderneſs; little imagining his early hopes of virtue would have been ſo untimely nip'd by folly, to wither in their bloom.

Lady Generous remain'd a ſtranger to this unhappy marriage, till it was reveal'd to her by reading a magazine: that was a motive for new grief, but when ſhe heard of the declenſion of his fortune, her eyes were one perpetual ſtream of ſorrow; with ſome difficulty ſhe prevail'd on her papa to write him a letter of friendly admonition, but he received it with coldneſs

neſs and diſguſt, and anſwer'd it with much reſerve and diſtant civility; which fix'd a reſolution in his offended friend never to trouble him more. To make his happineſs compleat, he had the mortification to receive letters to inform him that Colonel Le Roy had behaved ſo monſtrouſly ill in his private character, and with ſuch brutality to the men, he was broke by a Court-martial.

Mr. Dumont and his Lady were greatly ſhock'd at ſo publick a diſgrace being brought on the family, and the Colonel's eager expedition, in drawing on this ſhameful blot in his character (having been but eighteen months in the army) conſiderably added to their uneaſineſs, which was juſtly wrought up to a contempt of him; his ſiſter was ſo highly exaſperated, ſhe refuſed to ſee him; but Mr. Dumont (after ſeverely reproving him for his ingratitude to him, but moſt eſpecially for the ſcandal he had thrown upon the noble and honourable name of ſoldier) promiſed him if he could content himſelf with a retired life he ſhould want for nothing that

was neceſſary to ſupport him in a genteel manner; but upon his ever offering to publickly appear, he ſhould from that inſtant loſe all claim to his protection.

With many promiſes to comply with his brother's requeſt, he was diſpatch'd the next morning to the ſeat at Iver, till Mr. Dumont had time, to enquire out a more diſtant retirement, which he ſoon effected; and allowing him a hundred pounds a year, ſettled him at a clergyman's houſe in Brecknock in South Wales, where he had never been ſeen; and as a farther ſecurity for concealing the diſgrace he had brought upon himſelf and family, obliged him to change his name to that of Wilſon, which as it was a very common one, he might be related to any family of that name throughout Great-Britain, when curioſity (which is very prevalent when ſtrangers make their appearance) excited any one to make an enquiry; his late miſconduct had ſo manifeſtly condemn'd him in the opinion of his friends and near relations, he prudently reſolved to endeavour to reconcile himſelf

ſelf to thoſe that knew him, and carefully avoid the leaſt ſuſpicion of a probability of his being guilty of any follies beyond thoſe incidental to mankind in general. This well-timed artifice recommended him to the favour of all the Welch gentry for many miles round; and being of a gallant airy diſpoſition, and having ſeen a good deal of the world, he made their hours paſs chearfully away wherever he was in company. By his brother in law's advice, he paſſed for a young gentleman of a moderate fortune, who had a large dependance at the death of an old rich uncle; the deſign of which was, if by behaving well, he could ingratiate himſelf into the favour of one of the rich Welch heireſſes, he would give him a fortune to anſwer his aſſertion, on condition he was upon an honourable treaty; but if complaints were ever made againſt him, to abandon him to any wretchedneſs his inconſiderate follies ſhould bring on him.

Mrs. Dumont held her reſolution of not ſeeing him till he had endeavour'd by his future conduct to deſerve thoſe favours

favours her good natured huſband had confer'd on him. However when he was ſettled he wrote her a very genteel letter, full of confeſſion of his former errors, with aſſurances of a perfect contrition; earneſtly importuning her to favour him with a literary correſpondence, which to encourage him to purſue every laudable deſign he had framed, ſhe readily conſented to, and permitted Mr. Dumont, in the ſtyle and character of his old uncle, frequently to ſend him handſome preſents, over and above his yearly allowance; which ſtrongly corroborating with the account he had given of future expectations, made ſeveral young ladies begin to look about them, and ſtrive who ſhould be the firſt to engroſs the affections of the Engliſh ſtranger.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Mr. Powel *meets with unexpected Interviews in the* Indies.

AS ſoon as Mr. Powel arrived, his firſt buſineſs was to enquire after Mr. Jennings, whom he did not ſee the firſt time of waiting on him, being inform'd by Mr. Jennings's clerk his maſter went the day before into the country to the ſolemnization of his ſiſter in law's wedding, that he would be in town the day following, and if he had any particular buſineſs, he was authoriſed to tranſact it, equally as if his maſter were preſent; then deſiring him to walk in, introduced him to a magnificent apartment, which ſeemed calculated for the reception of an emperor. They ſoon entered into a converſation, which confirm'd the report Mr. Evelyn had given Powel of the excellent character of Mr. Jennings, nor was he a little pleaſed to hear it, on his own cccount, as Mr. Jennings was

was the worthy perſon on whom his future ſucceſs in a great meaſure depended, through Mr. Evelyn's interceſſion.

Mr. Ledger (that was the clerk's name) entertain'd Mr. Powel in a very elegant manner, and as he underſtood Mrs. Powel and her little ones were alſo in the colony, diſpatch'd a ſervant with an invitation to them; which Mr. Powel would have evaded, thinking it a troubleſome incroachment upon a ſtranger's curteſy; but Mr. Ledger aſſured him he was bound equally by his maſter's command and his own inclination, to pay the higheſt reſpect to all Engliſh ſtrangers. The ſervant ſoon return'd with Mrs. Powel and her children. When they were aſſembled, they paſs'd the remaining part of the day in viewing the houſe and gardens, and were entertain'd with ſuch hoſpitable eaſe and friendly politeneſs, that both Powel and his wife thought themſelves entirely happy. Mr. Ledger gave him Mr. Jennings's hiſtory from the time of young Dumont's firſt ſeeing him, and the ſtory

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in all points told ſo much to his maſter's honour, he thought it no error to recite it: Mr. Powel in return gave Mr. Ledger his hiſtory, with which the good natured man was truly affected, when he heard the calamitous part of it, and promiſed him as far as his knowledge and advice could be of uſe to him, to do the utmoſt in his power to ſerve him; farther he could not offer, as he was himſelf but lately relieved from a ſeries of misfortunes, through Mr. Jennings's extenſive humanity and benevolence; Mr. Powel thank'd him for the friendly promiſe he had given; and night drawing on they parted with the higheſt ſatisfaction on all ſides. And according to appointment, Mr. Powel next evening waited on Mr. Jennings, who was expected by dinner time; but as his coming was uncertain he was refer'd to the lateſt hour that he might be ſure not to be diſappointed.

Next afternoon Mr. Jennings and his Lady return'd, who were inform'd by Mr. Ledger of Mr. Powel's arrival, and deliver'd to him Mr. Evelyn's recommen-

mendatory letter which Mr. Powel had left the night before; the pleaſing opportunity of ſhewing every grateful ſenſe of Mr. Evelyn's care of Jennings in his minority, raiſed in his ſoul a generous impatience to receive and ſerve his new commended friend. Mr. Ledger was inſtantly diſpatch'd to Mr. Powel, who ſoon returned with him, and met with ſuch a reception from Mr. Jennings, as confirm'd him in the belief of all he had heard of him from Mr. Evelyn and Mr. Ledger.

After the neceſſary compliments, Mr. Jennings call'd to his little ſon, about five years of age, and bid him tell his mama there was a gentleman from England deſired to ſee her; the little well-bred ſoul, young as it was, made a very genteel bow, and haſtened to obey his papa's commands; it is to be remark'd this was Mr. Jennings's firſt born, and bore as ſtrong a reſemblance of Lady Generous, as her daughter did of young Dumont, a plain demonſtration that poor Mr. Jennings ſecretly languiſh'd with his hopeleſs paſſion; even after marriage, though his

his noble generous nature never ſuffer'd him to give Mrs. Jennings the leaſt ſuſpicion of the misfortune he labour'd under; but time and the fond regard that lady had for her huſband, at laſt engroſs'd every tender thought for her, and her alone, inſomuch they lived together in an uninterrupted ſtate of conjugal bliſs.

Mrs. Jennings ſoon appear'd, conducted by her ſon. Mr. Jennings introduced Mr. Powel to this agreeable lady; who going to ſalute her, they ſtarted, and fix'd in aſtoniſhment, gazed at each other, expreſſing by their looks an unuſual joy at the interview.

Powel after getting the better of his pleaſing ſurprize, cried out, Good Heaven, is it poſſible! Do I hold thee once more in theſe arms? My dear Belina! After ſuch a tedious abſence I began to fear you were no more; and little thought to find thee living in a foreign clime! Mrs. Jennings expreſs'd the effuſion of her tranſport with drops of joy and repeated embraces; which ſtruck Mr. Jennings into the ſtrongeſt amazement, never having

having once ſeen the leaſt familiarity from his wife to any man but himſelf, and very gravely aſk'd Mr. Powel how long he had been acquainted with Mrs. Jennings? Oh Sir, replied Mr. Powel, from infancy, and our loves increaſed with our years. Alaſs I thought her dead, but how ſhall I expreſs my overflow of happineſs in ſeeing her, after ſo many baleful hours of anguiſh I have felt on her account, leaſt fate might have inflicted miſeries on her, as it has lately moſt ſeverely done on me.

Mr. Jennings could not very well tell what to make of all this, till Mr. Powel call'd her ſiſter; upon which Mr. Jennings embraced him with a fraternal tenderneſs, and was overjoy'd that Providence had ſo fortunately put it in his power to give freſh proofs of his fondneſs to Mrs. Jennings, by paying all due regard to the perſon and intereſt of ſo near a relation.

An apartment was immediately order'd for Mr. Powel and family in Mr. Jennings's own houſe till a proper ſettlement could be found for him, which

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was ſoon after accompliſh'd; it happening that a factor died in a ſhort time after, and he was ſettled by his brother in law in the houſe of the deceaſed, and by a large preſent from him, enabled him to carry on the buſineſs.

Mr. Powel was very deſirous to ſee his youngeſt ſiſter, whom he underſtood by Mr. Ledger was married the day before. Mr. Jennings, though he was but juſt come from the new married pair, would not protract the brother's joy of ſeeing his other ſiſter, and made a journey for that purpoſe the next day, to viſit Mrs. Leiceſter who had married an Engliſh gentleman, that had reſided but a very few years in that country, but by an induſtrious improvement of a little fortune, and gaining by his behaviour an univerſal eſteem, made himſelf maſter of ten thouſand pounds.

Mrs. Leiceſter was no leſs pleaſed at the unexpected ſight of her brother, than Mrs. Jennings had been; but now reader judge the ſtrong confuſion and ſurprize both of Mr. Powel and Mr. Leiceſter,

ceſter, who proved to be the very man that had defrauded him of the 400 *l.* and was the cruel author of all poor Powel's ſufferings; the money he robbed him of was the means of his advancement in the Indies, whilſt the other was pining with famine and deſpair in a loathſome jail in England.

When theſe two perſons met they both changed countenance, Powel with rage, redned and darted his eyes like an offended tyger, while the other turned pale, from the reſult of conſcious guilt, and whoſe whole maſs of blood retreated to his heart, both remaining ſpeechleſs and immoveable. This viſible confuſion put all the company in a moſt profound conſternation. Mr. Jennings aſking Mrs. Powel if ſhe could explain this riddle, ſhe told him yes; by which time Mr. Powel who perceived her to be going to open the affair, prevented her, by winking at her, reſolving within himſelf to take different meaſures in the conduct of this buſineſs than what Leiceſter expected he would have done, who from the ſtrong impulſe of ſhame, ſurprize, and anguiſh

anguiſh of mind, fainted quite away, which gave a general concern to all, but moſt eſpecially the bride, who threw herſelf proſtrate on her huſband, concluding him to be gone for ever; but by proper aſſiſtance he recover'd, and deſired for a few moments to be left alone with Mr. Powel.

Mr. Jennings at this requeſt took all the company into the garden, who remain'd in ſtrange confuſion; the ladies moſt eſpecially were curious to know, and began to queſtion Mrs. Powel, as they fear'd ſomething wrong on Mr. Leiceſter's part; but her huſband's hint was a ſufficient excuſe for her declining to give the leaſt account; nor would Mr. Jennings permit them to make any farther enquiry. When they were all gone Mr. Leiceſter thus addreſſed Mr. Powel.

"Thou much injured man! I am "but too ſenſible neither words or "deeds can make you the leaſt amends "for the horrid and barbarous villainies "I have committed againſt you; and "though Providence has crown'd me "with ſucceſs in the uſe of the cruel ſpoils

" ſpoils of your wreck'd fortune, I
" aſſure you I have ever felt a ſecret
" terror, even in the acquiſition of all
" that ſeeming happineſs I am now
" poſſeſs'd of; nor did I ever know
" a moment's peace till an unbounded
" fondneſs for your ſiſter, relieved my
" thoughts, which were before employ'd
" in the moſt painful reflections on
" that ſhameful and inhuman treatment
" of your generous friendſhip. I know
" myſelf in your power, nor ſhall I
" intreat you to foregoe a proper and
" juſtifiable uſe of it on my own ac-
" count, but to avoid the agonizing
" grief your ſiſter (whom more than
" life I love) muſt conſequently feel
" on a publick proceſs againſt me.
" I here offer you my ſword and ready
" boſom to take ſuch a revenge as
" your juſt reſentment ſhall think pro-
" per; and though I fear my death
" might occaſion that of my unhappy
" wife, yet let me beg of you not to
" load her ſorrow with that ſcandalous
" reproach the world would throw upon
" her ſhould your juſtice inflict that
" puniſhment I moſt truly deſerve".

No

No, anſwer'd Mr. Powel, I am far from any ſuch intent, and on my ſiſter's account will promiſe to conceal your cruel return of my friendly aſſiſtance; and ſhall only put this matter upon the footing of a debt of conſiderable conſequence, as they will naturally make ſome farther enquiry into what paſſed between us; and hope this lenity will induce you to redouble and make a laſting continuance of that fondneſs you avow for poor Harriet whom I find you have eſpouſed. And now Mr. Lieceſter let us embrace as friends and brothers, and when you are at leiſure let me know (for I am certain you are a gentleman) what induced you to throw ſo apparent a blemiſh on that character. Mr. Leiceſter promiſed he would; then ſtepping to an inner room return'd with bills to the amount of a thouſand pounds, which he beg'd his brother to accept on in part towards an amends for the wrongs he had done him.

Mr. Powel very thankfully received them, but when he related that thro' Mr. Lieceſter's means he had been

expoſed to the bitterneſs of want in a priſon, and that his wife and children had been in a periſhing condition; he was ſo dreadfully ſhock'd at the recital, he wanted power to expreſs the tender concern he felt on that account, but ſhew'd it by preſſing his brother cloſe to his boſom, and vented his ſorrow and contrition by a very hearty flood of penitential tears.

Mr. Jennings who was quite in the dark about this buſineſs, and very uneaſy till he got ſome information concerning it, ſlip'd away from the ladies to join the gentlemens company, when he found Mr. Leiceſter had been in tears, and a fixed melancholy in his face, fondly requeſted to be acquainted with the cauſe, as he was ready, if any thing in his power could mitigate the affair between them, to put it in immediate execution.

Mr. Powel, to ſtop any further enquiry, told Mr. Jennings that Mr. Leiceſter had formerly uſed him ill in an affair of very great conſequence, by witholding from him a conſiderable ſum, which had expoſed him even to want

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and a priſon; and knowing Mr. Leiceſter founded his fortune on his ruin, ſeeing him ſo unexpected and unprepared, threw himſelf into a rage, which he begg'd Mr. Jennings's pardon for, telling him the matter was entirely made up by an ample amends from his brother in law; and that all that was paſt ſhould be forgot on his ſide, expreſſing an earneſt deſire to live in a laſting friendſhip with him, as a brother and a friend.

Mr. Jennings was highly pleaſed to find the matter was accommodated, and went to fetch the ladies, who were equally delighted on that account; when the two brothers in law were left alone the ſecond time, Mr. Leiceſter took that opportunity to expreſs how much he thought himſelf obliged to Mr. Powel's uncommon generoſity, and promiſed to give him every convincing proof by promoting his intereſt, and which he forwarded with the utmoſt expedition, making him, thro' his means, in two years time, a five thouſand pound man, clear of all incumbrances. When the company re-

turn'd they mutually congratulated each other on their alliances, and a happy end of the diſpute that had ſubſiſted between the two gentlemen. They paſſed that night at Mr. Leiceſter's; the next day he and his bride ſet out with the reſt to Mr. Jennings's ſeat, where they finiſh'd the uſual rejoicings at great weddings. In about a fortnight's time Mr. Jennings and Mr. Leiceſter undertook Mr. Powel's ſettlement, in which Mr. Leiceſter was moſt particularly aſſiduous, never thinking it poſſible for him to make Mr. Powel amends, either for the wrongs he had done him, or for the generous concealment of ſo brutal a crime.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Mr. Powel *is ſettled.* *Mr.* Leiceſter *gives him a ſhort Account of himſelf and family.* *A rich Planter dies, and* Powel *purchaſes a large Part of his Effects.* *Mr.* Jennings *meets with a violent Shock.* *His Behaviour on that Account.*

MR. Jennings, and Mr. Leiceſter ſpared neither pains nor coſt to effect Mr. Powel's buſineſs, in a very ſhort time; the former excited to it from the recommendation of Mr. Evelyn, as well as from the regard he had to him from being his brother in law; and the other impell'd by a ſtrong deſire to make him the utmoſt amends within his power; for the foremention'd reaſons, Mr. Powel very ſoon became a man of note in the place, and inſtructed by his brother Jennings, who was one of the greateſt and richeſt merchants there, he made ſo conſiderable

a progreſs, that he was worth ſeveral thouſand pounds in a few years.

One day, as Mr. Leiceſter and he were walking in a grove, that belonged to Powel's eſtate, he reminded him of the promiſe he made him of his hiſtory, which the other began as follows.

You may remember, ſaid Leiceſter, that I told you I was at law for an eſtate of five hundred a year; 'tis true I was, but I was at that time defending a very bad cauſe, for I had taken poſſeſſion of my mother's jointure, which fell to my elder brother by her death, while he was in the Eaſt Indies; and by an extravagant courſe of life, had a great deal impair'd it, mortgaging ſome of the land belonging thereto; and had he not come over as he did, 'tis poſſible from the riotous life I led, devoting myſelf too much to the ladies and the bottle, the whole might have been equally incumbred. I took care not to let him know my mother was dead, nor did he ever get the leaſt information of it, till he came to England; at which time, finding me obſtinately, and I may ſay inſolently reſolved, to withold his

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right from him, he commenced a law-ſuit in which I was ſoon caſt; and having run thro' the fortune my father bequeath'd me five years before, I was drove to my wits end to know which way I was to ſubſiſt; never having been bred to any buſineſs, and acquiring an idle way of thinking from the ill examples of my aſſociates, I ran very much in debt, and at the time I ſo ſhamefully and cruelly wrong'd your friendſhip, I was under an arreſt for two hundred and fifty pounds, but by virtue of the laſt five guineas I was maſter of, the officer ſet me at large for two days; and knowing a priſon for life, muſt have been the conſequence of my ſurrendring, I emboldened my ſpirits with drinking, to perpetrate the horrid deſign I put in force againſt you and your unhappy family; paid the debt, and went on board an India-man with the remaining part of the caſh, without conſidering what I ſhould do when I arrived here; till luckily falling into the worthy acquaintance of Mr. Jennings, whoſe powerful examples of honour and virtue made ſuch

an impreſſion on my mind, I was determined no longer to purſue the tract of villainy; and heartily repenting of my crime, I found the ſuperior force of innocence hourly gaining ground; and what conſiderably added to my converſion, was the conception of the moſt tender and honourable paſſion for my deareſt Harriot; whom more than life I love. Her amiable diſpoſition ſoftened me into every noble ſentiment of honour ſupported with humanity; and ſet my paſt crimes before me in ſo juſt a light, as made me hate the reflection of my guilt, and fixed me everlaſtingly a friend to virtue.

The only torment of my life, was the dreadful imagination of what you ſuffered; but the terror of my guilt being diſcloſed, by advertizing where I was, and the uncertainty of your not taking a juſt revenge, made me forego any deſign of enquiring after you. And had not providence ſo happily caſt you on our ſhore, that circumſtance muſt ſtill have embittered the ſweets of life; which through Heaven's and your forgiveneſs, I hope

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we ſhall ever enjoy. And be aſſured, my dear friend and brother, I look upon no part of my eſtate my own, when ever your intereſt demands it.

Mr. Powel's good nature had long ſince forgiven the injury, and as a convincing proof that he deſired alſo to forget it, he enjoined his brother never more to give the leaſt hint of what had paſſed; declaring, that he was made ample amends in the wondrous turns of providence on his ſide, and received an additional and unſpeakable happineſs in Mr. Leiceſter's converſion.

It happened that one of the richeſt black planters died, who leaving only a widow behind him, and ſhe being advanced in years, reſolved to ſell the plantation and a numerous ſtock of ſlaves, and retire from buſineſs. Accordingly a ſale was advertiſed, and among the reſt of the gentlemen, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Leiceſter, and Mr. Powel, went to make purchaſes of the goods; as to ſlaves, Mr. Jennings never would deal that way, being of too tender a diſpoſition to inflict the

heavy grievances and burdens he often ſaw his fellow creatures undergoe. However, he went into the gardens with the reſt of the company, where theſe unhappy wretches were employed in dreadful taſks in the extremity of the ſultry heat, frequently receiving cruel ſtripes from the mercileſs hands of their overſeers.

But what muſt be his confuſion and ſurprize, when among the number of theſe miſerable objects, he ſaw his own uncle, who had formerly abandoned him to the utmoſt wretchedneſs, had not Providence ſent young Dumont to his relief. Yet notwithſtanding his barbarity, Mr. Jennings felt all the tender emotions of heart for his misfortune, as if he had never wronged him; and immediately enquired into the cauſe of his arrival there, not owning him farther than one he had ſeen in England, and was ſorry for his unhappy miſ-management, which had reduced the laws to a neceſſity of expoſing his age, (he being pretty elderly) to ſuch hardſhips.

When

When he came to ſpeak to him, Mr. Jennings found he had entirely outgrown his knowledge; nor did he intend to reveal himſelf, till upon queſtioning him, he found he was likely ever to be worthy of ſuch a diſcovery.

When this worthy gentleman accoſted him, his humanity was ſo touched, he had ſcarce power to ſpeak; nor was his honeſt ſoul leſs affected with inward ſhame, to think that any one ſo nearly related to him, was capable of deſerving ſuch a puniſhment. But when he was informed the cauſe proceeded from his attempt to rob the late noble and illuſtrious Count Deſtrades; his grief and confuſion was not to be deſcribed; nor could he bear the reflection of an injury intended from any part of his family to his worthy benefactor. And in a letter to Mr. Evelyn, which he ſent ſoon after on that occaſion, he ſufficiently teſtified the concern he felt on that account; however, he had the ſatisfaction of letting him know at the ſame time, that upon his diſcover-

ing himſelf to his uncle; (whom he had purchaſed from the widow) it had ſo happy an effect on the old man, that he grew penitent; and from Mr. Jennings's generous uſage, (from whom he had no right to expect the leaſt glimmering hope of mercy) he became the reverſe of what he had been; confeſſing his crimes, with an utter abhorrence of the remembrance of 'em, and in the humbleſt manner implored his nephew's pardon; who not only gave him his freedom, but ſettled him ſome few miles diſtant from him. He lived two years only, leading a life of contrition, and died a perfect convert to religion's truth and pureſt laws.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Mr. Evelyn *receives a Letter from Mr.* Allworth, *the Contents give him great Concern. A ſhort Account of Mr.* Allworth.

MR. Evelyn was extreamly pleas'd at the account Mr. Jennings gave of the happy iſſue of his uncle's affair, and highly applauded his forgiving nature, and godlike diſpoſition; Lady Generous and Mrs. Evelyn were equally delighted with the virtues of this worthy gentleman, nor could they refrain from tears, when they reflected on his ſufferings in regard to his paſſion for Lady Generous; who ſtrongly ſympathized with him in the pains ſhe endured from her fondneſs of young Dumont.

Mr. Evelyn anſwer'd his letter, with freſh aſſurances of the ſincereſt friendſhip, and hearty congratulation for his ſucceſs in merchandize; he had ſcarce finiſh'd Mr. Jennings's epiſtle, before the poſt ſtopt at the gate, with one from Mr. Allworth,

Allworth, who was the gentleman Mr. Evelyn enjoyn'd to have a watchful eye upon Mr. Dumont, and notwithſtanding the coldneſs ariſing from Dumont's unexpected turn of behaviour, he could not help feeling the ſecret tenderneſs which offended parents often do, when headſtrong children precipitately ruſh into follies which not only deſtroy their own happineſs, but terribly corrode that of the afflicted father and ſuffering mother.

Such was the caſe with Mr. Evelyn, who having been acquainted in his youth with Mr. Allworth, and proved him to be a gentleman of honour and ſtricteſt integrity, he depended on his friendly and ſecret correſpondence to inform him of every unhappy ſtep he foreſaw Mr. Dumont was going to take.

I muſt beg leave to let the reader know, that Mr. Allworth was a Gentleman of an ancient family, but being a younger brother, his father had it only in his power to leave him 2000l. which with difficulty he had ſcraped together for him; this gentleman had a liberal education, and nature having furniſhed

niſhed him with ſound judgment and ſprightly wit, he was univerſally admired and careſſed, which led him into a general acquaintance with all the polite and ſenſible part of the town; and happy were they, who could firſt ſecure him for all parties of pleaſure. Being perfectly well bred, and everlaſtingly good humour'd, he wiſely conſidered that the ſmallneſs of his income, was inferior to the dignity of his education; and as he was above the meanneſs of being a fortune hunter, remain'd a batchelor, nor would he ſtoop to marry any one below him in birth, and help to people the world with genteel beggars.

This reſolution empowered him to live eaſy to himſelf, and ever agreeable to his friends; among whom was the Count Deſtrades, having been introduced by Mr. Evelyn there a few months before that nobleman's deceaſe; in conformity to Mr. Evelyn's requeſt, he ſent the following account of Mr. Dumont.

SIR,

SIR,

I AM ſorry to ſend my dear and worthy friend ſuch an account, as I am ſenſible muſt throw him into many melancholly reflections, but as you have laid the injunction on me, I think it entirely conſiſtent with that friendſhip which has for years ſubſiſted between us to be comformable to your requeſt, and wiſh it were not in my power to inform you, that poor Mr. Dumont ſeems to ride poſt on the back of misfortune; which he preſſes forward beyond her common ſpeed: thoſe noble ſentiments and ſhining virtues, which nature beſtow'd, and your care ſo tranſcendently improved, are all loſt in a labyrinth of love for a thoughtleſs woman: Were ſhe an ideot, I ſhould not be ſurprized at the daily follies ſhe commits: In her intervals of madneſs for gaming, ſhe appears a reaſonable and ſenſible creature; yet her infatuation is ſo ſtrong, that inſiſting on my ſtaying dinner, ſhe very gravely told me dice was juſt coming up, and beg'd me to ſtay and

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eat a bit with them; I ſmiling replied, I never attempted to make a meal of that ſort but once; and found them of ſo very indigeſtive a nature, I never car'd for them ſince. My reply made her ſenſible of her miſtake: upon which, I took the opportunity to tell her how narrowly I eſcaped the ruin of my ſmall fortune in my younger days, by falling into the hands of ſharpers; and entertaining a fondneſs for play, which you my good friend, by your timely cautions ſoon broke me of; and 'tis to your ſuperior virtue, I now think myſelf indebted, for the happineſs I enjoy in the preſervation of my income, and ſecluding me from the aſſociation of the moſt villainous part of mankind. Believe me, dear ſir, 'tis with aſtoniſhment I behold a daily concourſe of people aſſemble themſelves with a premeditated deſign, like ſo many Savages to prey upon one another; yet ſhake hands, and embrace, call each other friend, when at the ſame time, they meet with a barbarous intent of robbing each other of the means of life; which I think falls but one ſtep ſhort of a devaſtation

of

of life itſelf; and in my opinion would prove the gentler evil of the two.

I have ſo far ingratiated myſelf into the favour of our unhappy friend and his lady, as to be appointed maſter of the ceremonies at their aſſembly, which they hold twice a week; and my rules are as punctually obſerved, as thoſe of the worthy old Beau at Bath; who has for a ſucceſſive roll of years been their chief arbiter at thoſe polite aſſemblies. The firſt uſe I made of my power, was to aboliſh that unnatural cuſtom in parents, of introducing their ſons and daughters, whoſe ages perhaps did not exceed nine or ten years; and were made intimate acquaintance with Baſto Ponto and Ames Ace, and at the ſame time abſolute ſtrangers to their alphabet. This I regard as a moſt unpardonable cruelty, to lead unwary youth into inevitable dilemmas which were ſo eaſily avoided; I reſolved to put an end to it, by making it a rule that no perſon ſhould be admitted there under the age of twenty five: and I wiſh I could as eaſily extirpate the race of embroider'd ſharpers; to which, I hourly ſee Mr. Dumont

Dumont a moſt inſufferable dupe. I muſt needs confeſs, I think it incumbent on our legiſlature to ſcrutinize into that affair, and endeavour to obtain an act of parliament, to prevent the proper ornaments of nobility becoming the ſcandalous concealment of theft and rapine; a ſcoundrel has it in his power by giving half a guinea, for the hire of a rich ſuit in Monmouth ſtreet, to ruin whole families: and as there have been ſo many inſtances, of the perpetration of many horrid deſigns in thoſe glaring appearances, 'tis needleſs to expatiate on them farther; but I am apt to believe, if it were made felony to wear lace and embroidery without any real pretenſions to it by birth and fortune, it would be the happy means of preventing the ruin of thouſands.

In the reign of Edward the III. every perſon dreſs'd agreeable to their condition; and were that law again in force, we ſhould not be ſo liable to the forementioned evils, but leſs peſter'd with a croud of pragmatical coxcombs, who becauſe they dreſs like gentlemen fancy themſelves ſo; when at the ſame time, their

their utmoſt merit conſiſts in being broken attornies, or barber's apprentices.

Pardon me, dear Sir, for taking up ſo much of your time with theſe remarks; but as they bear ſome analogy with the characters of thoſe wretches whoſe hands Mr. Dumont is fallen into, I ſhall I hope ſtand excuſed, and intreat you to employ your thoughts with mine, to find out ſome expedient e're it be too late to prevent the ruin he purſues. I am ſorry to add farther, that night is now turned into day, and many of the ſervants who are often obliged to be ſtrangers to their beds five or ſix nights and days ſucceſſively, have given warning on account of their healths, which theſe irregularities have conſiderably impair'd. The porter indeed who finds the advantageous ſweets of his place, has hired a deputy; but thoſe who pay their attendance in other lights, have not ſo favourable an opportunity. When I appoint to wait on him at breakfaſt, I never attempt going till tea time in the afternoon, by which hour I am ſure to find them drinking their morning chocolate,

and

and forming freſh plans for deſtruction.

Laſt night the beautiful ſeat at Iver was the melancholy ſacrifice to a ſet of loaded dice; and feloniouſly ravaged from its owner, by one of the moſt execrable villains in town; and I confeſs my trembling heart beats thick for the danger of thoſe noble ſtructures at Verſailles and Fontainbleau; I have formed a deſign to ſave them if poſſible, and if needful will put it in execution. If my purpoſe ſucceeds, you ſhall have the earlieſt advice on that head; in the mean time I beg Sir, once more you'll contrive ſome method to bring Mr. Dumont, if poſſible, to reaſon, before impending miſery hazard its total diſſolution. My compliments to your worthy family concludes me,

SIR,

Your ever Faithful, Obliged Friend,

and Humble Servant,

SOLOMON ALLWORTH.

Any

Any perſon who ever felt the natural impulſes of parental tenderneſs, friendly ſorrow, and grateful ſenſations, may without much trouble inform themſelves of the terror of Mr. Evelyn's heart, which this epiſtle muſt conſequently occaſion. However, he reſolved not to let the grandſon of his generous patron fall a victim if poſſible to thoſe blood-ſucking villains, who were daily feeding on his vital life.

Notwithſtanding his former determination of never ſeeing young Dumont more on his ſcornful contemptuous behaviour to him, when his fatherly and friendly advice was offer'd to prevent his marriage, which he foreſaw too plainly would end in his deſtruction; he communicated his mind to Mrs. Evelyn, who in all the occurrences of life was his faithful adviſer, but did not dare give the ſmalleſt hint to lady Generous, whom he ſtill perceived to languiſh with a hopeleſs paſſion, which was diſcover'd by the frequent lonely and melancholy retreats ſhe made, and has been found weeping both by her fond parents and little daughter, who was come to an age to

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diſtinguiſh ſo far as without knowing the cauſe, to partake in any ſorrow ſhe ſaw her dear Mama involved in.

Mrs. Evelyn propoſed her huſband's going to London and paying Mr. Dumont a viſit, but he declined it, rather chuſing to depend on Mr. Allworth's letters, which he knew would give him proper inſtructions how to proceed; and as there was a kind of breach ſubſiſting, he imagined Mr. Dumont would only look on him as an interloping buſy medler, which would rather widen it ſtill more, and by that means deprive him of the power of being his friend when he ſhould ſtand in moſt need of him; he therefore concluded at that time to anſwer Mr. Allworth's letter, which he did by the firſt poſt, as follows,

SIR,

I AM certain your good ſenſe will naturally conceive the torture my mind endures, from the terrible account you give of the poor, unhappy, beloved Dumont;

mont; for Heaven's ſake, prevent his ruin if poſſible. I believe I ſhall ſoon be in London, for I have half prevail'd on my melancholy child to leave this (though a noble, yet) gloomy retreat. The painful apprehenſions I hourly labour under leſt I ſhould loſe her, have enforced me to blend my parental fondneſs, with my poſitive command to be obey'd; her fear of offending, I believe, will gain my point.

When we meet we'll mutually contrive a means to ſave this thoughtleſs man from his impending ruin; with many thanks for your friendly concern for him, I remain Mr. Allworth's

Sincere Friend and Humble Servant,

CHARLES EVELYN.

Mr. Allworth was highly delighted at the thoughts of ſeeing his worthy friend again, and more eſpecially ſo, as it was likely to be the happy means of preventing the total ruin of this unfortunate gentleman. But alas! his lady

ran to ſuch exceſſes, that before Mr. Evelyn could poſſibly take his intended journey, he was abſolutely undone. At the very laſt aſſembly that was held at his houſe, there came in two well dreſs'd ſtrangers, whom Mr. Allworth took but little notice of, and as Mr. Dumont, to oblige his lady, had made it a general rule to entertain any perſon who made a genteel appearance, they were permitted to play, and in leſs than three hours, made themſelves maſters of every ſhilling he was worth in the world. Mrs. Dumont continued playing till ſhe had ſtrip'd herſelf of her watch and jewels, with the hopes of redeeming all again, but in vain! All was loſt, and they were obliged next day to quit the houſe, and by virtue of the writings of the eſtate deliver'd by Mr. Dumont, theſe two perſons took immediate poſſeſſion. Mr. Allworth's humanity provided Mr. Dumont an apartment, and ſupplied him with caſh, as far as his circumſtances would admit; but Mrs. Dumont, from the ſhock of this dreadful cataſtrophe, took ſo immoderately to

drinking, that in about three months time ſhe died raving mad.

Poor Mrs. Evelyn at that time fell into a violent fever, which retarded their journey till her death; which misfortune made her diſconſolate huſband perſiſt more ſtrenuouſly for his daughter's coming to London, not being able to bear the place where he had ſuſtain'd ſuch a real loſs. Lady Generous was not leſs concern'd, and readily obey'd her father's will, ſetting forward with the utmoſt expedition, after her dear mother's interment.

Mr. Dumont, notwithſtanding he owed his ruin to his wife, was moſt tenderly affected at her deceaſe; and for ſome time, from the reflection of the unhappy miſconduct on both ſides, fell into a deep melancholy, and as a farther addition to his diſtreſs, he received news of his brother-in-law (who was ever a diſaffected perſon) having joined the rebels, ſuffer'd a publick ignominious death, which every LOYAL HEART MUST THINK HIS TREASON JUSTLY DESERVED. Thus were, through the height of exceſſive indiſcretions, and the immoderate purſuit

of

of follies, two perſons loſt to the world and themſelves, and a noble youth terribly involved in their ruin, each of whom might otherwiſe have been ſhining ornaments of the preſent age.

As I before hinted to the reader, Mr. Evelyn and Lady Generous in about three months ſpace came to town, with a deſign to ſettle in it for life.

Mr. Allworth joyfully received his friend, who deſired Mr. Dumont might remain a ſtranger to his arrival for ſome time; well knowing that a ſudden ſurprize to a melancholy mind, might poſſibly be attended with dreadful conſequences. And as Dumont was conſcious that he had wrong'd Mr. Evelyn's friendſhip, which he often expreſs'd infinite concern for to Mr. Allworth; it was concluded, by ſlow degrees and gentle means, to make the diſcovery.

Lady Generous and her papa reſided at her ladyſhip's town houſe near St. James's; and though that amiable worthy creature's heart ſtill felt the agonizing pain of ſeparation from the diſtreſſed object of her wiſhes; ſhe never once attempted at a propoſition to her

father for an interview, positively resolving to be rather a sacrifice to the utmost dignity of virtue than betray a weakness that should put her on the common level of too many of her sex.

Poor Mr. Dumont's misfortunes, had so far deprived him of that noble sense he was once master of, that one day, taking a melancholly walk, without very well knowing where he should steer his course, he stray'd (unknown to Mr. Allworth) as far as Brentford; and hearing a drum beat up for volunteers, forgetful of himself, directly listed; his height, and beautiful person, attracted every eye with pleasure and surprize. The serjeant that enlisted him, found he had no common person in his power, and joyful at his success, took coach, and went to Kensington, where his Colonel lodged; who was equally pleased at what the serjeant had done, and went with him to the first justice of peace to have him immediately attested; strictly charging the serjeant, to take him directly to the Savoy, and keep him close confined,

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till they had orders to ſail; (the regiment being ſoon to go abroad) but with this caution, to treat him with the utmoſt reſpect, as he was a gentleman, and in compaſſion to his indiſpoſition, plainly perceiving he had a fever, attended with a terrible lowneſs of ſpirits, tho' ignorant from whence it proceeded, nor was it his buſineſs to enquire.

Mr. Dumont underwent a violent indiſpoſition in the Savoy, and as the Colonel was charmed with his appearance, took care to let him want for nothing but the uſe of a pen and ink, which was a dreadful motive of ſorrow to poor Mr. Evelyn, and his friend Allworth; who not having heard of him for ſome weeks, concluded he had raſhly deſtroyed himſelf; and tho' they advertiſed him, no tidings could be gain'd. And both theſe gentlemen made it their daily buſineſs to go in queſt of him, but to no purpoſe. At length there came an order (a peace being concluded) to draught out ſeveral men, and place thoſe approved of in the guards, the

others were discharged accordingly.

Mr. Dumont was one of those whom they were proud to keep; and directly stationed in the first regiment. When he was at large, shame would not permit him to let his friend Allworth know in what situation he was in; only directing a line to him, to signify that he was alive, and much better in health than he had been for some time; that if he could reconcile it to himself patiently, to endure his concealment a little longer, and forgive his abrupt departure, he should hear farther from him; but required no answer, being resolved (at that time) not to make any farther discovery.

This epistle reached Mr. Allworth by the penny post, which rendered it impossible to make an enquiry concerning him. Mr. Evelyn was soon acquainted with the contents, and tho' excessively uneasy, both he and Mr. Allworth were obliged to rest satisfied, till Mr. Dumont thought proper to give them farther information; not that he knew Mr. Evelyn was in town,

nor

nor did that worthy gentleman inform his daughter of what had befallen their lamented, unhappy friend.

Mr. Allworth being let into the ſecret of Lady Generous's melancholly, adviſed her papa, to perſuade her as much as poſſible, to partake of all the polite and faſhionable entertainment the town afforded; and with much difficulty they prevailed on her to go to the Opera; which as her ladyſhip was a very great proficient in muſick, ſhe preferred to a play. Accordingly Mr. Allworth and her papa, with a young lady, accompanied her thither, and ſat in one of the ſtage boxes.

Lady Generous, notwithſtanding all the grief ſhe had for years ſuſtained, ſtill preſerved every native charm, and ſtruck the eye of each beholder with a moſt pleaſing aſtoniſhment; but what was moſt ſurprizing, on her ſeating herſelf in the box, the poor centinel, who was upon guard juſt by it, ſuddenly ſtarting, dropped his piece on the ſtage, and ſtooping to recover it, was obliged to make a nearer approach; by which means,

that company diſcovered it was the unhappy Dumont; whom we may eaſily conceive, to ſuffer all the ſhock and terror a great mind muſt on ſuch an occaſion be ſuſceptible of. Poor Lady Generous was carried off for dead, whom as ſoon as ſhe was conducted home, Mr. Allworth left, and returned to the opera, but found a freſh guard to ſupply Dumont's place, who was render'd thro' his confuſion, and ſurprize, incapable of performing the duty of the night.

When Mr. Allworth miſs'd him on the ſtage, he aſk'd the ſerjeant what was become of him, who inform'd him he was ſent to his quarters ſpeechleſs; and not knowing the cauſe, could give no other account than that he was thought to be taken with an apoplectick fit; upon which this worthy gentleman gave the honeſt ſoldier a crown, to let him know where the poor fellow (as he thought proper to term him) was to be found; he was no ſooner informed, than with the moſt friendly expedition, he ſought him out, and had him carefully placed in a hackney-chair, and convey'd to his own houſe; it is true, he had re-

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cover'd his ſenſes, but was ſo extreamly ill, Mr. Allworth thought proper to have him put to bed, and ſent for one of the beſt phyſicians in town, who attended him all that night.

Next morning, Mr. Evelyn came to wait on him, when after having been properly prepair'd for the interview by Mr. Allworth, theſe long parted friends met, embrac'd, and with the moving eloquence of ſilent tears alone renew'd their former friendſhip. A farther deſcription is needleſs on this occaſion, as every generous mind muſt naturally bear a part in the pleaſing anguiſh, each muſt feel on ſo extraordinary an event.

As ſoon as they were capable of converſing, Mr. Evelyn beg'd Mr. Dumont to be entirely conformable to the ſkill and care of his phyſician, in regard to his health: adding, that he was very certain providence had ſtill many bleſſings in ſtore for him; which if he made a proper uſe of, would compenſate for all the ſorrows he had undergone thro' his miſtaken fondneſs for Mrs. Dumont. Here the afflicted gentleman ſtopt him, begging him never to mention her again;

adding, that he did not chuſe to expatiate on that ſubject, he could only confeſs his folly, and implore his pardon for the inſolent diſregard he paid his friendſhip, which was ſo anxiouſly employ'd to have ſaved him from deſtruction.

He then changed the diſcourſe, by a friendly enquiry after Lady Generous; whom he ſaw carried in a chair from the box to her coach; dreading an account, leaſt it ſhould end in an information of her being in danger: but her papa eas'd him of that fear, aſſuring him, that he had great hopes of her recovery; and that as ſoon as ſhe could receive company, and he was able to go abroad, intreated him to favour her with a viſit. What, ſaid Dumont, favour a noble Lady with a viſit from a poor ſoldier? No! that honour———Here Mr. Evelyn interrupted his farther ſpeech, beſeeching him to conſider himſelf the man he really was, and to think of this ſtrange viciſſitude of fortune, ordain'd by Heaven, as a gentle puniſhment for having deſerted thoſe manifold virtues it endow'd him with; and which the ſame providential care would give him power to reſume,

and

and overcome the torrent of diſtreſſes that had overwhelm'd him.

Mr. Allworth's friendly care was employ'd in attending Mr. Dumont till his recovery, while Mr. Evelyn was equally aſſiduous in gaining his diſcharge; which, as he was cautious in expoſing a noble family, by not confeſſing who he was, he found impracticable, and was at laſt, reduced to a neceſſity of doing it to effect his purpoſe. When that was accompliſh'd, Mr. Evelyn brought the diſcharge, which Mr. Dumont thankfully received; telling him, that if he had but prudently left himſelf as much as would have purchas'd a commiſſion, he ſhould have been both ready and willing to have employ'd the remaining part of life in the ſervice of his country: but now alaſs! I have nothing to depend on, but the hopes and certainty of dying, to rid myſelf of thoſe ſorrows my follies have deſervedly inflicted. That, ſir, can never be, anſwered Mr. Evelyn, while theſe writings are in force, which intitled me to a genteel revenue from your worthy Grandſire, and are no longer mine, ſince your neceſſity, and my own gra-

titude, demand a reſtoration, where they are ſo amply due. Mr. Dumont received the generous and grateful deſign with that nobleneſs of ſoul was ever natural to him; but on no terms could be prevail'd on to accept the writings; which notwithſtanding his poſitive refuſal, Mr. Evelyn privately left in the hands of Mr. Allworth, and for that time took leave till next day; bringing with him, a friendly, and indeed a grateful invitation from his worthy daughter, inſiſting by their former friendſhip, that he would accept her father's offer; and alſo one from herſelf, which was ſent in bank notes, to the amount of ten thouſand pounds; entreating him, not to be offended, as ſhe thought he had a more natural right to it than herſelf; it being the happy effect of the generous Count's benevolence beſtow'd on her infancy.

It is impoſſible to deſcribe the torrent of joy flowing round the heart of this late unfortunate gentleman, who notwithſtanding his poverty ſtill perſiſted in a refuſal of their offers. Mr. Evelyn having

having reſolved within himſelf, without his daughter's knowledge, to make them both happy, propoſed a treaty of marriage; which he alſo rejected, though in a modeſt ſenſible manner; anſwering Mr. Evelyn, that the only objection he had was, that as blind fortune had ſo cruelly miſled him when in the height of affluence, he would not pay ſo ill a compliment, to bring a beggar to her arms; adding, that could time and circumſtances be recall'd, he ſhould have been indeed a happy man, had Lady Generous and he conceived a tender paſſion for each other at the time Sir John paid his addreſſes to that valuable creature. Upon which Mr. Evelyn began to unfold the ſecret of his daughter's love, poſitively affirming, that her whole ſoul had been entirely devoted to him from the age of fifteen, and was the ſad motive of that grief, ſhe even to the preſent moment ſuffer'd; and that her delicacy of diſpoſition had made her a virtuous ſacrifice to the niceſt rules of modeſty and honour, and that ſhe was entirely ignorant of the diſcovery he had made,

but

but was determined to let him know it, to prevent his ſuffering the loſs of ſo deſerving a child.

This recital gave poor Dumont the tend'reſt emotions of heart, and a tranſport appear'd in his countenance, which great ſouls alone are capable of feeling, blended with a generous pity and ſoft concern for the afflicted lady; yet ſtill he urged his want of fortune, which would, ſhould he pay his addreſſes, make him appear rather a mercenary than a grateful lover.

Mr. Allworth ſoon gave him proof of his not being that indigent perſon he conceived himſelf, reſtoring to him the writings of his eſtate, which he in madneſs deliver'd to the two ſtrangers whom he thought had lawfully poſſeſs'd themſelves of it; but Sir, ſaid he, as I perceived the danger of your ruin, I artfully prevented it, by procuring two worthy friends, whom I could entruſt for once, if I may be allow'd the phraſe, to be guilty of an honeſt fraud, with loaded dice, a whole fortune fell into their hands, from the reſult of your diſtracted mind; the writings which you

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haſtily gave to them were ſecretly de-liver'd to me, which with unbounded tranſport I now reſtore, and have ever ſince I had the honour, Sir, of being through my friend Evelyn's means, in your family, been ſecretly and induſtri-ouſly employ'd in taking care of your affairs, all which are retrievable. One thing I muſt add, Sir, though Mr. Eve-lyn needs no addition to his character, this was a ſecret even to him, therefore you may be aſſured his offer of his daugh-ter was entirely diſintereſted. Oh Sir, replied Dumont, who had ſcarce power of utterance, Mr. Evelyn's merit can only be equal'd by my worthy grandſire, who as far ſurpaſſed all others, as Heaven is ſuperior to the earth; there is but one more who can vie with them, which is your worthy ſelf, whoſe meritorious act of friendſhip, I ſhall think poorly rewarded in the acceptance of five hun-dred pounds a year during life, and a grateful donation to the friends he em-ploy'd. All matters being properly adjuſted, Mr. Evelyn went home and prepared Lady Generous to her inex-preſſible ſurprize and joy to receive Mr

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Dumont for a huſband; in a few days their nuptials were publickly ſolemnized at St. Paul's cathedral, and was the bleſs'd means of reſtoration of peace and fortune to this worthy pair.

Not long after this happy union, Mr. Jennings came to England with his family, conſiſting only of his lady and ſon, excluſive of ſervants, among whom was Mr. Ledger, his clerk, whoſe fidelity in that office entitled him to his maſter's friendſhip during life. Mr. and Mrs. Leiceſter were both dead, that gentleman not being able to overcome the ſhocking reflection of the wrongs Mr. Powel had ſuſtain'd, fell into a decay which carried him off, and his wife ſoon follow'd from the reſult of a tender affection, which render'd it impoſſible for her to ſupport his loſs; as they died without iſſue, Mr. Powel was made his heir, which happy bequeſt added many thouſand pounds to his fortune; his two ſons were grown up, and as the father had more than a ſufficient competence, were jointly concern'd in the trade the father had ſucceſsfully carried on for ſome years, each marrying two of the greateſt for-

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tunes in the colony, and lived to be the happy inſtruments of good to ſeveral who from their great humanity avoided many ſorrows they might have been otherwiſe expoſed to.

I need not tire the reader's patience in a deſcription of the interview of Mr. Dumont's and Mr. Jennings's family, that muſt be naturally and eaſily conceived: I ſhall only beg leave to inform them that at firſt ſight Maſter Jennings and Miſs Generous mutually conceived a fond regard, which when they both came of age, was rewarded by a happy marriage; and they are now, without exception, the greateſt examples of conſtancy and virtue to all who enter into a connubial ſtate; whilſt the parents on both ſides are bleſs'd with the injoyment of their little prattling offspring to comfort them in age, and more than make amends for paſt afflictions.

F I N I S.

General Regiſter-Office, *Holborn-Bars.*

IT would doubtleſs, and with good Reaſon, be tho't an impertinent Intruſion on the Reader's Patience, here to inſiſt, or enter into any long Detail of Argumentation on the great Utility of OFFICES OF INTELLIGENCE, as that has

has already been enlarged upon and diſcuſſed by ſeveral beyond Controverſy; and indeed the Thing itſelf (had a Word never been mentioned on the Subject) loudly proclaims the Neceſſity of ſomething of that Nature; and the vaſt Advantage accruing to thoſe who make Uſe of them, both in Reſpect to the Smallneſs of Expence and Quickneſs of Diſpatch, tends not a little to prove the Benefit they are of to the Publick in general. It has been a Matter of Wonder to many, why ſuch a Scheme ſhould not long ago have been thought of: where by applying, every Member of Society may meet with an immediate Supply to their ſeveral Wants, without the vaſt Expence and Inconveniences they are often put to. The Buyer is often at a Loſs for a Seller; the Landlord, a Tenant; the Tutor, a Pupil; the Maſter, for an Uſher and a Scholar; the Rector, a Curate; the Man of Taſte, for an ingenious Artificer; the Traveller, a Companion; the Merchant, Tradeſman, &c. for a Partner, Bookeeper, Apprentice, &c. and *vice verſa*; all which is the Buſineſs of

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our Office, to find out, and bring together, as ſoon, and with as little Expence as may be.

But this is not all, one Article ſtill remains of no ſmall Conſequence to all Houſekeepers: now every Attempt to make theſe Offices ſtill more compleat and conducive to the Good of the Community (all Things have their Infancy and grow mature by Time) muſt, by all impartial and unprecedented Judges, be conſidered as a commendable Undertaking, and worthy Encouragement. This we preſume to have effected by enlarging the common Plan and Proceeding in a great Meaſure on one entirely new.

N. B. This is the only Office in *England*, where Maſters and Miſtreſſes can have Servants *Gratis*, and where one or more of the Proprietors conſtantly attends Office-Hours, which are from Nine in the Morning till Six at Night.

At

At this Office Maſters and Miſtreſſes may be ſupplied by calling or ſending, *without Fee or Reward*, with the following Servants.

Stewards,	Porters,
Valets,	Waiters,
Butlers,	Houſekeepers,
Cooks,	Governeſſes,
Coachmen,	Ladies Women,
Footmen,	Chambermaids,
Grooms,	Houſe Maids,
Huntſmen,	Dairy Maids,
Whippers-Inn,	Dry and Wet Nurſes,
Poſtillions,	Kitchen Maids,
Gardiners,	Maids of all Works, &c.

But it is to be obſerved that no Servant can poſſibly have a Recommendation or meet with any Encouragement from us, who has not a Character every way ſuitable (both as to Honeſty and Ability) to the Places they pretend to. And none ſuch can ever remain long unemployed: wherefore 'tis their Intereſt to make the ſpeedieſt Application.

Every

Every Thing relative to the Circulation of Money is negotiated here, by Men of undoubted Credit and Property. Not only Buying and Selling Eſtates, procuring Money on Mortgage at the eaſieſt Rate, &c. But alſo, Annuities, Advowſons, Preſentations, and Reverſions, Commiſſions in the Army, and in ſhort all Employments civil and military, are here bought and diſpoſed off, likewiſe thoſe who have Money may be here put in a Method to diſpoſe of it as ſecurely and to better Advantage than in any other Place elſe whatſoever.

It would be too tedious to enter minutely into every particular Tranſaction of our Office. But the judicious will readily conceive from this ſhort Sketch how highly ſerviceable ſuch an Undertaking muſt be to almoſt every Individual of Society, and how well it is calculated for the Benefit of the Whole. Numbers who have favoured us with their Commands have been convinced by Experience, that nothing could be better adapted to anſwer the various Pur-

poſes of its Inſtitution than the Method we proceed in; and as the ſtricteſt regard to Honour, Secreſy, and Punctuality has always been the invariable Rule of our Conduct; and no Pains, Aſſiduity, or Expence ſpared in Order to the better and more expeditious carrying on the Buſineſs of our Employers, and the Improvement of our Plan, when it ſeemed neceſſary or requiſite, we hope (with Thanks for that we have already received) for the farther Continuance of the Favour of the Publick, and are

The Publicks

Moſt Obedient,

and Obliged Humble Servants.

H. SLATER, } Two of the
S. WHYTE, } Proprietors.

All who have Houſes, Lodgings, Shops, Publick Houſes, &c. to lett, regiſtering their Situation, Terms, &c. will ſpeedily get them occupied, and

all ſuch who are in Want of the like, by leaving neceſſary Inſtructions at this Office, cannot fail of being almoſt inſtantly provided for. We have now on our Books, ſeveral eminent Tradeſmen wanting Apprentices, and Lads of reputable Parents wanting proper Maſters, both with and without Money.